

1987

MONTANA ARCHERY

HARVEST
&
PREFERENCE
SURVEY



COMMENTS

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ARCHERY HARVEST AND PREFERENCE SURVEY
GENERAL COMMENTS INTRODUCTION

The following comments were taken from the back page of the 1987 Archery Harvest and Preference Survey where there was space provided for respondent's comments. The comments were typed-in verbatim except for some minor spelling changes. Content and grammar was not edited. The harvest and preference analysis is under separate cover.

Free-flow text comments such as these can not be easily entered and concisely analyzed like numeric data. Because the respondents took the time and effort to write about issues that are of importance to them, we felt it was necessary to print their comments in a concise, readable format. Although some of these comments may not be well-written, they are perceived images and attitudes of the hunting public and provide valid information.

The comments were anywhere from short and general in nature to long and very specific. To facilitate the reading of what turned out to be a voluminous document, the comments were categorized and sorted. Many of the individual comments covered several topics and were, therefore, categorized as best as possible.

COMMENT CATEGORIES:

1. General Miscellaneous Comments
2. Comments On The Survey
3. Enforcement
4. Fewer Regulations
5. Habitat - Forest Service Logging Issues, Winter Ranges, Livestock Grazing On Public Lands, etc.
6. Overall Hunter Pressure, Crowds, etc.
7. The Quality Of Montana's Wildlife Resource
8. Fish, Wildlife and Parks Doing A Good Job
9. Fish, Wildlife and Parks Policy
10. Inexperienced/Unqualified Bow Hunters. Sportsmanship. Bow Hunter Certification/Education. Wounding Of Wildlife
11. Outfitters/Guides. Nonresidents

12. Comments On Equipment. Bow Versus Rifle. Crossbows, Primitive Weapons.
13. Road Closures/Motorized Vehicles, Aircraft.
14. License/Permit Issues And Suggestions. Number And Location Of Permits, Cost, etc.
15. Fee Hunting, Landowner/Sportsmen Issues. Public Access.
16. Bugling, Rut And Breeding Period.
17. Choose weapons. Either/Or Issue With Regards To Bow Only, Rifle Only Tags.
18. Satisfied With Season As Is/Leave Things Alone.
19. Increase Archery Stamp Price (License Fees In General) To Regulate Hunters.
20. Point Regulations. Cow /Bull Options.
21. Late Hunts.
22. General Comments On Season, Time, Length, Etc. Comments On Specific Hunting districts.
23. Comments On Game Population, Size Of Bulls/Bucks, Cow/Bull Ratio.
24. Conflict Of Overlapping Seasons For Different Species.
25. Archery Hunting Pressure.
26. Meat Hunter/Trophy Hunter
27. Appreciates Wildlife And The Outdoors While Archery Hunting. Enjoys The Challenge And The Sport Itself.

1. GENERAL MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS.

When I started bow hunting nearly 20 years ago bow hunters were looked upon with respect. They were generally good woodsmen with high ethics. Success rates were quite low and it normally took a few years for a new bow hunter to be successful. Success was considered secondary to personal challenge and the enjoyment of the hunt. All hunting was strictly fair chase with basic equipment. All competition was between the hunter and the game. It brings me great sadness to see the state of bow hunting today. Many of todays bowhunters (fortunately not all) will stop at nothing to kill an animal. Fair chase, sportsmanship, ethics and challenge seem to be old fashioned words with little or no meaning to many modern bowhunters. Success is measured in terms of how many animals can be taken with as little effort as possible. Game violations and criminal acts were almost unheard of years ago, now they are all too common. There are many methods used to short-cut bowhunting skills, woodsmanship, knowledge of the game, etc.

Airplanes are used to spot game, land in the vicinity and make a kill. One very serious problem in N W Montana is the use of ATV's to violate road closures, herd and harass game. In my opinion the most serious problem facing bowhunting today is the use of the compound device with a bultitude of gadgets. The compound by itself is really not a problem. But with full draw holding devices mechanical releases that work just like the trigger on a rifle, scope sights, electronic sights, electronic rangefinders, and a myriad of other gimmicks the sport of bowhunting has been diluted to the point where it has no meaning. Statistics from other states have shown that this modern equipment actually contributes to wounding loss due to flimsy high tech broadheads, too light arrows (overdraws), and the willingness to shoot at excessive distances. Mandatory bowhunting education for all bow hutners would certainly help. Either or would also likely improve the quality of hunters in the field but in my opinion we need equipment restrictions. No electronic devices of any kind, no full draw holding, no overdraws, no rangefinders and no mechanical releases. Obviously there are people opposed to this, but they are not bowhunters and should be hunting during the rifle season. These people do not want a challenge, they simply want to kill an animal as quickly as possible. Let's put challenge and ethics back into bow hunting and return its status as a hunting sport to the high level it belongs.

Bow hunting is a very special undertaking that should not be taken lightly. It rewards its participants with challenges, excitement, joys, and rewards beyond anything I've experienced. Please help us save this wonderful sport.

Sincerely, Chad Sivertsen

Thanks for listening.

It was a good year of elk hunting this season.

I also hunted the late season up Porcupine creek but was not successful. I think a time should be set as to how soon one could leave the parking lot. By the time you leave in the dark, the elk have been chased up over the ridge before its even light enough to shoot.

I hunt elk on Charles M. Russel. There are to many hunters concentrated on unlimited areas.

The "Murphy lake" elk plant, was a joke. Before the animals could ajust or dispersed, the elk were shot up opening day of the general season. The season should have been closed for the first year in that "area", to give the elk a chance.

I live in 290 and walk from my house so it is the only area I hunt in. It is private land so we can control the hunting pressure.

I have lived in the country for 15 years and there is definitely a severe shortage of grouse, pheasant thru out Mt. and the season should be closed for 2 yrs to make Mt. a great place to hunt. A lot of hunters feel that fish and game keep the season open for revenue. Yes, there might be a few good areas to hunt but just a few.

Question 10 was answered "yes" however, the wound did not appear fatal. It was in the "hump" above the shoulder and above the vertebrae.

My main problem seems to be finding quality hunting areas. Wether archery or rifle hunting I try to stay away from the crowds.

Part III would not be typical as I was not able to hunt elk during the 1987 season.

This was my first year archery hunting. Looking forward to next fall hunting.

I didn't hunt elk with a bow. I just enjoy hunting deer close to my home.

Montana has great bow hunting opportunities.

I would like to see B-tags for whitetail does in district 390, Canyon Ferry Game management area.

Give the River Breaks to archery hunters for a longer time than other areas. There are too many elk for the mule deer to compete with.

I am just very happy that I've been fortunate enough to have been born in Montana and live here and be able to do all this things that are available to me. Thanks for sending this preference survey to me. I fill out any that I receive right away.

I am a trapper. Please review the bobcat quota in eastern Montana and lower quota or close the season a couple years or something. Preferably close the season.

Don't encourage archery - I like the peace and quiet.

Heavily hunted areas - I don't have any great ideas how to reverse this or even know if it is a problem but feel it is a subject that should be watched.

Why not allow us archers to bait bears?

I have not hunted big game with a bow long enough nor hard enough to be qualified as an avid bow hunter but I hope my answers will help in your survey.

I am a outfitter and I do not hunt in competition with my hunters. I saw elk, 13 days out of 14 days hunting.

I've had a lot of elk from coming into my blinds during archery season "cause" of game counters in planes. This should be done before and after archery because we cannot shoot 200 yard away, we have to be about 40 yards.

Shotgun season should be slugs only not buck shot.

I would like to see less hunters only because I think in the last 5 years or so it has been a fad. Hopefully it will get back to where it was 8 or 10 years ago.

In reference to your survey I disagree with questions #8 A, B, C, D, F, G, I. Because I feel they will damage Montana's reputation as a hunter's haven. Whether a person bow hunts as an amateur or a professional they are all there for the same reason, to enjoy Montana's wilderness to the fullest whether they are successful in their hunt or not. Some of these outrageous ideas could also affect Montana's economy, indirectly.

There seems to be someone who has it in for bow hunters. I think there is some jealousy involved. If they don't want to take advantage of a beautiful opportunity it's their choice, but if they don't, it would be a shame for them to ruin it for those of us who do.

I enjoyed hunting this year very much and hope next year to get the bull I shot at this year.

Question 8 missing option., shorten archery season one week to make room for a black powder season. I do not now own a black powder firearm but would buy one if there was a separate season. Many others would do the same. These monies would be spent in Montana. I am sure that a separate license would also increase revenue potential. We who live in Montana do so for the recreational activities. Any scheme to limit the use of the outdoors to residents should and will be looked at with contempt! As long as bag limits do not increase there is room for everyone's favorite type of hunting. Most hunters like to try various methods of hunting and spend a great deal of money doing it. These monies are what fund wildlife management!

This year was very abnormal for me. I typically hunt every weekend.

I am only twelve years so some of your questions don't apply to me.

I enjoy both bow hunting and rifle hunting in Montana. It is the only state I have been in that you can get more than one animal.

I would like to see it become easier to become a hunting and fishing guide, and or after getting a elk be able to retrieve it by auto on CMR. Its hard to pack an animal out on your back.

I have written a number of opinions in this book - not ment to be rude. I think that all efforts should be taken to enhance hunting for Montanan's, not the out of state hunter. Residents of Montana should come first. I feel all of the politics should be, at least, cut in half.

I'm not a very "dedicated" archer. As I already stated, after archery season, I sold my equipment because I had a need for the cash. I hope someday to replace it all.

I think the state should not allow power line to cross near or on wilderness areas.

I think considerations should be made on fishing with bows.

Overall I had a good hunt.

The population and access to the big game animals is a big problem in that it gets to cost more because of excessive trips, low population casusing more trips. You have to drive for a long distance, it gets to cost more than its worth.

While gathering wood in the district prior to the season, sign of game and sightings of game were plentiful. Opening day and through the season there was no sightings and little or no sign

of the game.

Hunting is an American way of life, not just for the rich. Don't raise the price just to lower the volume.

I thoroughly enjoy Mt.'s hunting opportunities and I'm glad that I've made Mt. my home.

Montana is a great state to hunt.

Some of the areas where it is really to overpopulated with deer, like along the river bottoms in around big flat and harpers bridge. Landowners ought to have the right to choose between shotguns with slugs or archery or both, because in this area there are way to many deer. There are to many getting hit by cars out in this area. Every week there are a least half dozen killed during the summer and fall.

Should have mandatory validating system and/or return of all hunting tags filled or not to gain a more accurate account of animals harvested in both orchery and general seasons. Too many animals harvested that never get counted in spot checks or check stations.

I truly enjoy hunting elk with a bow. The only disadvantage that I see is that during the time of the year that bulls bugle there is no snow and that some wounded elk are not found. I also think that an elk can survive an arrow wound easier than a rifle injury.

Part II 8A - Favor if not applicable to special permits. Part II 8f - addattmently oppose. Part III 12 and 13 - Yes, but only first few weeks.

I believe section 291 is soon going to be overpopulated and I think there should be more parking lots on the Prison Ranch.

I feel any problems we have in areas 622 - 631 - with too many hunters will peak out and return to normal in a few years.

People around here some of them hunt down in our river bottoms, and all the land is posted and there is no place to hunt whitetail deer. The only places I hunt is a school section around Florence.

I am an old hunter (68) and appreciate the archery opportunities in the state. They give more pleasure than rifle hunting but I enjoy both. In the areas with which I am familiar I do not feel that archers have a serious impact, although harassment of elk may become a problem in the breeding season.

I feel that there has been an increase in bowhunters in the last

few years. This fact has bothered me somewhat, however, I don't think that it is a big problem as of yet.

I've noticed in the 260 area, elk have been popping up now and again. There are no regulations concerning this, other than you can't hunt them. You might look at allowing the hunting of elk here if this continues to occur? I've personally have seen them in the Frenchtown area and south of Lolo in the river bottom.

1987 was a warm dry fall with little bugling and great difficulty sneaking. The elk stayed in the wet holes all season and numbers of elk seen and bugles heard were way down. The warm weather prevented hunting the most productive areas.

I'm not real experinent in archery hunting but am very interest in the sport.

Deer and elk hunting is great even though I really don't like or want to kill anything. Deer and elk are beautiful animals, and I feel we should continue caring and protecting them. I also feel that if we are gonna kill such an animal, make sure it's for food on the table and not for the thrill.

I hunted elk in 700 last year. I didn't see another hunter, witch was kind of nice. It was the first year that I hunted archery in the past 4 years. If I would have had more time to hunt I think I could have killed an elk.

Lets try to keep it simple and fun.

If it is possible I would like some profesional opinions on when it is legal to shoot a bear - "if a threat should occure." And is it legal to carry a pistol while archery hunting.

I would like to see a black powder only season.

I take only close shots.

I was in about 85 head of elk when I got mine. The closest one was about 10 feet it was cow calf.

I felt many of the items in #8 were too general or did not relate to the area I hunt.

Even though I gave not killed with the bow I feel the time in the field a good way to scout for rifle season.

1987 was my first year to hunt as a resident of Montana. My work hours restricted my hunting time in the field. Hopefully this year will be different.

I couldn't answer correctly on #12 and #13. Never got any shots

at elk but I would shoot any elk.

Sorry my form is late but I received my mail late and I have been very busy. But probably not too busy to archery hunt if the season was open.

The deer hunting in 87 wasn't so hot in Medicine Lake. The deer got sick and started dieing but it was a fun sport trying to find the deer.

I saw and had opportunity to shoot (under 25 yards) two cows and one spike. Bugling twice brought in six point bulls but never closer than 50 yards. I don't shoot accurately past 30 yards,so I never fired an arrow this season.

I also feel, with no malice towards present commissioner, that all executive positions should be held by "in-house", experienced game and fish personel - not "civilian appointees".

This survey is very bogus. I feel that you are picking on the bowhunter. You use trick questions in this survey and what you call information can be used as misinformation. It has been proven that bowhunters biologically have no effect on game populations. Why don't you ask rifle hunters how many elk they blaze away at 300 - 1000 yards and if they don't see one go down they don't walk over the see how many they hit! If you really want to limit bowhunters and man/hours recreation and revenue and opportunity, just make it either/or. It's to bad a few selfish individuals being bowhunters/guides/comissioners/ or dirrectors or biologists have to ruin it for everybody. Question? How does a state like Pennsylvania handle 200,00 bowhunters!

I am new at bowhunting however I enjoy the challenge and the safety of bowhunting as opposed to rifle.

One week prior too bow season I smashed off left index finger, since not work I had lots of time too hunt. I saw lots of game with my time in the mountains, but was unable too capitalize on it during bow season. 1988 will me my 2nd season bow hunting. I'm thrilled with the sport. Feel free to contact me on any surveys for Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

My name is Jim Bigley, I'm employed as the University of Montana in Missoula as an Electronics Specialist in the Geology Department. Except for 6 years served in the US Navy I have been a continuous resident of Montana since 1961. My father introduced me to hunting and fishing at a very early age (I'm now 36 years old), so I speak with some knowledge of how hunting has changed here in western Montana during the last 27 years.

I have just come off of an extremely poor year of hunting in Montana. Last season was particularly dry, but there seems to be

a slow continual degradation in both the quality of hunting and in the numbers of game animals seen during the time spent in the field. More and more areas each year are becoming treeless wastelands incapable of sustaining wildlife, and allowing easy ambush for any transient animal for all of the thousands of roadhunters. As one hunter from Hamilton said that I met this fall who had hunted hard on foot for 15 continuous days "I know where every elk is in the Sapphire range from Hamilton to Sula - all three of them". He complained about areas he had hunted all of his life that are now huge clearcuts, and other favorite areas extensively roaded.

I see this US Forest Service policy as the primary reason for the degradation of big game numbers in western Montana. Habitat has always been the one principle factor that determined the overall well being of any game species. Elk and deer have an ever decreasing safe haven, consequently their numbers have been severely limited.

Elk and deer have been forced to choose to exist in really laughable areas. For example, this past fall during hunting season, there were 40 head of elk living within 2 minutes of Lolo in amongst a recent subdivision. There is a covenant against hunting there and the elk know it. The hundreds of square miles of National Forest behind this subdivision contain few elk.

I feel that the Fish and Game Commission needs to have a more effective role in evaluating timber sales and proposed road programs with an eye toward minimizing the impact on big game habitat. The early days of logging in this state (1900-1930) saw only selective cutting with few roads. Now it seems the modern Forest Service policy is to cut a road every hundred yards on a hillside. This is ludicrous! We need permanent road closures where the roads are made impassible after the timber has been harvested. I applaud the helicopter logging. The days of money losing timber sales must be stopped. Road closures need to be more strictly enforced with a heavier penalty. Only the main arteries into an area need be open with all other roads permanently closed to vehicle traffic. Surely the untold thousands of people who hunt and recreate in Montana deserve as much a voice as the relatively few forest industry moguls.

I have read of how the big game numbers in Montana are higher now than in the past. This is nonsense, at least in western Montana. Except for the populations of whitetail deer, empirical data I have show all other huntable populations of mule deer and elk to be much lower in number than in the 60's or 70's. I have lived in this state too long to believe the headcounts coming from Helena. I could list several areas where elk populations have increased on or near private property, but these are not accessible to the public.

In the state of Washington, a person wanting to harvest a moose does so with the understanding that if successful, he will not be eligible to hunt moose again in that state, ever. I would think that an average moose hunter wouldn't "waste" the one tag he'll ever get on an immature bull or bow moose. Why not apply some of that thinking to elk and mule deer hunting in western Montana? A six point bull elk is a truly magnificent animal. Most hunters will never get one, but if a person is successful, should he be able to kill another next year? If Montana had a big game policy where if you were successful in bagging an elk you wouldn't be eligible for another tag in say 5 years, you would eliminate a lot of problems of administering cow tags, and branch antlers only etc. regulations. Most people would not shoot a cow or spike if they knew they couldn't get another tag for 5 years. Myself and everyone I've talked to about this would hold out for a true trophy. Would this policy deprive people of opportunities? I don't believe this would materially reduce the numbers of tags sold or decrease the outdoor recreational manhours. The net result would be that fewer immature bulls and cows would be taken, thus eventually building the herd numbers to a point where a hunter seriously hunting on foot for 15 straight days would do considerably better than seeing only the tracks of 3 elk. If this policy were adopted, I believe that the average elk hunter would have a better overall chance of getting that six point bull.

When I began hunting in 1964 one could venture out from Darby on the east side of town in any of the side drainages and see dozens of mule deer on any given occasion. Now it is rare indeed to see any deer at any time in this same area. Long time residents from other areas tell me similar stories of the plight of mule deer in their favorite areas. I covered hundreds of square miles on foot, horseback, ORV, and 4 wheel drive this fall. I saw few game animals and only 1 legal buck deer (a smallish 2 point) which I decline to take. Mule deer must be protected as must the elk, if we are to enjoy at least seeing huntable numbers of either species. The either sex deer portion of the rifle season should be eliminated for the mule deer, as a first step toward improving the muley numbers.

Most people "put in for a cow" every year hoping to increase their chance to kill an elk. I say fine let them put in for a cow tag, but if they are successful in drawing a cow tag, then a cow is all they are eligible for in the areas they have selected. This would separate the guys who really want a cow from the others who just want to kill an elk, any elk. I also believe that if you choose to bowhunt then you should not be allowed to hunt during rifle season. I currently bowhunt and rifle hunt, but if I had to choose I would hunt only during the bow season. Making this choice would help to reduce the large numbers of us competing for a limited resource. With fewer numbers of hunters

in either season, the game would be less harassed and hunters would have more pleasurable experience due to less competition.

I welcome your archery survey. I would not be surprised if the numbers of elk taken aren't higher than you think. The elk populations are brought together during this time of year, and the new equipment (diaphragms, grunt tubes, archery equipment and hunting information) have tipped the delicate balance more in favor of the early season hunter. Every fall I hear of more bull elk taken during bow season than I hear of being taken during rifle season.

The last issue I would like to talk about is one aspect of the general philosophy of the average hunter. That being that is OK to fill someone elses tag. This abhorrent behavior goes on all the time with friends and relatives of mine, and I think probably yours. I was really disappointed this fall when my 14 year old son told me that his friend had been in on a 5 person shoot at a lone cow elk. They finally managed to blast the thing, and none of them had a tag for a cow, but they knew of a friend of a friend who did. These ugly stories go on and on. Two years ago when my son attended the local hunter safety program little was mentioned about this widespread practice, but education holds the key to this problem. If we stress this issue adequately in hunter safety programs and get peer pressure generated, we can prevent episodes like the shooting gallery described above. Annually, hundreds perhaps thousands of animals statewide are killed illegally that would otherwise be available to legal hunters. I really get upset thinking about this.

Please give this letter some thought. I hope you may be able to apply some of what I have to say to our future regulations. Thank you for your time.

I was only able to hunt two day's this year because my work took me out of state.
I sure did miss my hunting.

Please do not restrict bow hunting. The number of serious bow hunters does increase yearly but is very low overall. Despite hunting the Little Belts on Kings Hill I seldom saw another hunter - even in driving about scouting.

Help us unfortunate hunters find good hunting districts, were elk are plentyfull, and Branch Antlered bulls are more abundant. Thank you!

This is the 1st year I have hunted with a bow in several years. I was within range of cows, calves, & bulls, 2 out of 3 days out, but could not get a clear shot thru the brush.

I appreciate your concern and attempt to improve the sport and

recreation of archery hunting.

I am very concerned about the attitudes expressed by one commissioner in particular - Mr. Bob Jensen. He is strongly opposed to archery hunting and does not seem to see it as a recreation deserving equal opportunity.

He should be made aware that his job is to improve hunting opportunities for all people - not to take it away from a few such as myself who chose to use a bow.

This is probably an atypical response, since I did not have the time to hunt this year due to the fire situation in California during archery season.

I would like to have quality self guided archery hunting in Montana.

I would like to see Bear Baiting open to archers.

More needs to be done to protect the land from (development) more Federal and State land needs to be required from private lands and protected from development. The environment needs more protection.

As I hunt more seasons I will Develop more opinions on the Subject.

I think somebody needs to do something about the Montana bow hunters asosiation in the bitterroot valley. Ther all a bunch of _____.

Elk hunting at the Pines is always enjoyable if the ground isn't too wet.

The only thing I stuck an arrow into this year was a sapling spruce tree!

I enjoy the opportunity to hunt #260 - with a long season. I have taken deer by Bow I have never hit a Deer and then LOST him! I will not DRAW ON AN ANIMAL UNLESS I'm 100% sure of a kill. How about a special YELLowstone Park Bow Hunt! To thin the Herd.

I would like to suggest you shut down the Doe hunting in area 705 because of the kill off from the Blood disease Blue Tounge this last year (Please) we are finding dead Deer everywhere. One of my friends found 17 carcasses in one ravine alone.

I enjoy hunting Montana!

Hunting season (both archery & rifle) has become more commercialized in the last couple years - outfitters; hunting leases; closed access; trespass fees; etc... Hunting will soon become "A rich man's sport", due to

commercialization.

A heritaged right, is being stripped from the people, to be reserved for the few - those with a vast amount of cash flow. Survival of the richest? - Aye?

Weather in 87 a little too warm - it messed up bugling period. Lack of a good cold snap in September hurt. Saw a lot of animals, but none by enough to shoot.

I've been in Montana for 4 yrs and never seen an Elk except Yellowstone. Can some info be put out. Like the standard price for an outfitter or why can't MD of FW&P have a beginner's trip to at least get us in the right area? Sometimes just seeing an animal would be worth the trip.

Any resident of Montana should be able to hunt any where with out haveing to be in a special drawing or getting a special permit for a certain area.

We have had very dry season for the past two years. It's made hunting tough.

I am a member of the Montana Bowhunters Association and I feel any dedicated bow hunter should belong to this group. I think the Fish & Game is doing an excellent job and all of us can look forward to many years of fine Archery seasons.

It is my greatest concern to see the number of killers reduced and the number of hunters and sportsman improve. Hunting is a sport. The actual kill is a serious matter that considers reasoning and a responsible decisive action. To many think killing is a sport. So many sit back and watch.

Question 6 = Tough to answer- whould always like to see more elk but at what expense?

Very much opposed to 8C on page 3 - its the time of year that I get to see new country.

Hunting during bow season, besides being fun, got me ready for the gun season and made it easier to finally get a spike bull.

My bow-hunting has developed as a way to recreate with my husband. I do not spend a lot of time at it. I do enjoy this type of hunting though because the weather is pleasant. I enjoy seeing the animals that I see during bow season - more than during rifle season.

I just can't believe hunting can be made so complicated.

Montana has extremely poor hunter safety habits. Too many hunters keep guns loaded in vehicles. I hunt alone

I bought a 1987 Bow license but did not get out but for only three days. Bow hunting I've only been at for 3 years and I haven't got anything but I love to Bow hunt. I've had alot of chances at cows & does but I won't shoot one. I've hunted for 23 years and have always shot Bulls or Bucks. No real reason.

I don't like to shoot elk with my bow but I do hunt them. I like to bowhunt to start getting in shape for general season and also to locate game animals.

I don't like the season ending on Sat. I work out of Town all week, get home late Fri. I hunt elk Sat. eve and Sun. morning. I leave home for work Sun. evening. sometimes I have to work Sat. I would like to have that last Sunday back.

I would like to see more control on Rifle season also. I am all for the preservation of our wildlife, But it has to be a joint effort from us, Government, & landowners. All the money you can get won't make any difference with out that.

In general my Archery season is very good.
I only have a few minor complaints. Amature hunters we call pilgrims and not enough large bull elk.

I suppose there are a certain number of people that would like the archery hunting all for themselves which can be accomplished by limiting the number of people by high fees, limited access and a number of other regulations which I oppose so that archery belongs to everyone. Sure there are problems associated with archery, the same as with any sport involving people, but please don't make any hasty decisions without listening to us, the people. I appreciate this opportunity to be heard. Thank you.

I've heard a lot of Bull ____ from those who do not hunt w/bow, about all the elk & deer they find wounded, etc. These malcontents are usually "road hunters" who wouldn't or couldn't stalk & walk for any distance, and who are green w/envy that bow hunters can hunt before they can. I submit that most wounded game is by rifle toters shooting at impossible ranges, and at unclear game animal targets. I don't shoot unless I know where my bullet will hit!

In addition, I see no really valid reason for any of question #8. None of the people I talk with who are archers agitate for any of those absurd proposals. I strongly suspect again that it is those who won't expend the energy, or who can't command the skills necessary, who are most virulently whining and carping to try to cause these merit less ideas to be adopted. and to what profit?

I only hunt for branch antler bulls with my bow, but I like having the option of shooting either sex. Some year I may want to shoot a cow or spike. I have been able to get 10 bulls in the

last ten years with a rifle so it lessens the pressure to get one with a bow.

I'm looking forward to the day when I get my first shot at an elk with my bow - any elk!

I would like to know why we pay \$6 for a bow stamp on top of the price of a deer tag and what it is used for.

I have been an avid hunter since the age of 12. Now that I am an adult and married, my wife believes that shooting a precious deer with a gun is just too easy. I'm in too archery really big now, and plan to harvest most of my big game with a bow in the future. Thank you!

Make it snow during archery season!!

Bowhunting is a quality recreational sport. Because I am handicapping myself with simple equipment and because I am limiting myself to only trophy animals, it is necessary that I get ample time to pursue my choices. Since bow hunting is biologically a recreational pastime, the more hours I can spend, the more I enjoy the sport. Thank you for that opportunity.

I was satisfied with hunting this year. But would like to see Public lands posted so a hunter knows whether he is on public or private land.

as president of our local archery club, I can't stress enough the importance of practice, and understanding the animal your hunting and patience.

I'm satisfied with hunting as it is, an it is not overly expensive yet. But I don't feel that it should cost an over abundance of money, and feel we are also helping keep the animal population down.

I used to hunt with bow a lot more than I have in the last 4 years, but backed off because I think the quality of the hunt has gone downhill. Hunting antelope with bow is not related to Elk & deer areas because you are restricted to separate areas & the numbers are much higher. I still hunt with bow & arrow but recently I've focused more attention toward species such as lion & bear in Canada where it is legal to bait. By doing so I've killed 1 lion & 3 bears in the last five years.

I hope the number of illegally taken game animals gets smaller and smaller until it eventually = 0!

I think the main factor for succesful archey hunting - seeing Elk and being able to get close - has been the weather - Temp - snowy rainy - hot conditions-ect.

I was really happy to receive my hunting (archery) permit for Elk hunting. This was the first year I hunted for Elk, I really enjoyed it and plan on doing so for years to come. This year I stalked and was in the right place at the right time to bag my bull elk, and I was skilled enough to place my shot to bring down my bull.

I appreciate the survey & interest by the Department. In many ways I'm not qualified to be considered a serious bowhunter. Much to my dismay, it's been much tougher and more expensive than I had expected. But, all things considered, I can see it's pretty much normal for this part of Montana. I have to make the decision to get serious - or get out!

Good hunting may the luck be with you.

I have had complaints that archery is unfair to hunters who cannot bear the expense of the equipment. Thus we have an unfair advantage. In the same note 4x4's give unfair advantage to those of us who cannot own them. The Bitterroot whitetail hunting is great. I am suspicious of the ranchers who call for black powder and shotguns here to control populations. and at the same time restrict access to archers.

I think the President of the Montana Bowhunters Assoc. is trying to get the opening date of rifle season (he doesn't want to hunt with a rifle) to coincide with opening of pheasant season (he hunts pheasants) in order to reduce the number of pheasant hunters.

Every one is short of money so why not all of us cut corners & economize with out having to be made to. As a rule most people will cooperate with ways that are better but waste & corruption and trying put too much of the load in the wrong place don't work for long.

We have a vary fine hunting areas in our state If every hunter would do his part by cleaning up after him self. Thais what I would really would like see a progrham toward neattness of our hunting lands

I feel that in areas that an overpopulation of deer is a problem, baiting should be allowed. I think this because it is hard to get shots at deer in these areas because they are so smart.

Have a nice day.

I am basically a rifle hunter who spent nearly every day in

antelope season to and of deer/elk season afield plus spring bear hunting. Archery provides a bit of eatin opportunity for me.

The opening of former sanctuary areas such as the Bitter Root Stock farm allows a more natural scattering of elk, even if only private paid hunting is allowed on the ranch, it will benefit all hunters eventually. The Lolo Creek Ranch, Billy Wallace Ranch, etc. which allows no hunting, create unnatural side effects which hurt the herd and anger hunters such owners ought to be encouraged to hunt, scatter or at least move their elk onto public lands.

My success with a bow has been minimal this far, but now I have the bugs worked out of it and hope to do better next year. Archery hunting is also an excellent way to hone your skills for the general season.

I think hunting in Montana is great there is a lot of big game every where. I just wish that people would take hunting more seriously.

I'm sick and tired of airplanes scouting game and taking unfair advantage of game and other hunters.

Archery hunting as it is has been a very enjoyable activity but with a few improvements it could be great!

Sean plenty of elk. Have figured out the reason that the game and fish closed area 324 to bow hunting.

Money spent on gas and grub is far more than listed. I continued to go every weekend with my hunting partner. I passed up several good shots at cans and calves until the close of my vacation. It's a great sport!

I have gone to hunting with a bow to get away from the crowds. As the number of archers increases am some I will quit hunting.

Skill, practice, knowledge of both equipment and game being hunted, landowner relations, policeing actions in our own ranks play a very important roll in better hunting in Montana not only with a bow but a rifle as well. Quick relief or bandaid methods to so called problems only create more problems. "Better"

communication of FW&P and sportsmans could alter any exsisting of future problems!

I passed up 3 elk (bulls) this past season. Reasons were simple-not high percentage lung shots available due to brush/lodgepole thicket area. All 6 pts, all trophy status. Passed up numerous cows that I could have harvested. My own personal ethics.

This was my first year to hunt with a bow.

I spent more time hutning elk in early 1980's than recently. Hope to increase hunting in the near future, work permiting.

Even though I am presently using a compound bow I would like to see a return to traditional (non-mechanical) archery equipment. It would tend to reduce the number of archery hunters to the more serious ones.

I've lived here for 2 yrs this August, this will be my 2nd hunting season and I can't wait. I am an excellent shot with a bow but I just didn't have enough luck to get an elk. I practice 2 hrs. every day with my compound bow. I got to a point where I can nock arrows into each other it gets expensive but didn't get any luck to bag my elk stupid branches screwed up my two best chances of getting one. And one bull caught me in the open sneaking up on him. I got 8 feet to a cow and didn't shoot.

In our districts the bulls won't bugle, but they respond to cow calls. Around here a person will bugle up people all the time.

I sincerely hope that you use the information you reieve back in your survey for compiling the season dates and not pressure from groups like RMEF or others for the sake of archery hunting in Montana.

The deer I shot was blind in one eye.

I passed up shots at does with fawns inororder to enhance the fawns chance of winter survival. Something you haven't considered in your questionnaire.

Let get something to kill knapweek and stop indians shooting elk

year round.

A new position at work cut in to my hunting time in 1987 considerably. Normally my time afield is three (3) times what I have indicated in this survey. The money I spend is usually more than this year, especially the travel expenses (gasoline). I usually buy a sportsman's license and a bowhunting ticket, although I don't hunt bear specifically. And I usually get a few grouse with my bow while hunting deer and elk.

As you may have noticed by the way I answered your questions 1987 was my first archery season. I hope it will still help your survey.

I feel if the sportsman and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks could get U.S. forest service, BLM, and many private landowners to change their values on land use, many of your survey concerns would take care of themselves. Animals need habitat hunter's need access. Increase both and pressures would naturally be lowered in other pressured areas.

The unusually "dry fall" seemed to have had a negative impact on hunters success.

In part II, question 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D-I hope you are not seriously considering these options. You would be inviting an increase in poaching and taking away the hunting variety that makes this state a great place to hunt. Also, why are hunters always burden w/ the increase? We contribute plenty in both fees and taxes. Let some of these so called "friend" of animals groups kick in once in a while. Hunting is a privilege for everyone-not just those w/ money. Some people have the misconception that those w/ \$ have better hunting ethics. Read the daily paper once in a while and you can easily see where the ethics of the rich lie.

We hunted a lot of places on public land for elk but could never get a clear shot. My husband paid to get access on private land and after four days I finally got to shoot at an elk. Ironically, we were on forest service land at the time. It was one of my most rewarding experiences of my life.

I am fairly well satisfied with the hunts in Montana. I feel most of my problems are getting to know areas, watching herds, and planning for a successful hunt.

I think hunting in Montana is very good compared to other states. If Montana can figure a way to keep the animals population up maybe when my son is old enough to hunt, he will have the same chances or better by the time he is able to hunt and also have a reason to go out and explore this beautiful state.

I have no idea what so ever about how much I spent on hunting and I believe it doesn't matter.

I understand elk herds won't utilize all of a given range or area unless they can find suitable forage everywhere they could wander.

I want to make Montana the best bow hunting state their is. And make the bow hunter's that hunt do it right.

I hunt by boat on Ft. Peck Lake, if I go to my favorite hunting area, and it is heavily concentrated with other permit holders- than I cannot boat to the other shore (different area) and hunt. Everyone has to stay in the same area and follow camouflage jackets around.

Area is Ruby closed-would like that area again opened up.

I think 1 or 2 weeks should be set aside in unlimited sheep areas for archery only season. I would propose this time to come in late August.

Only thing I'm concerned about in choosing your weapon is that I would be able to choose individual specie's in the type of weapon used.

In my opinion the last couple of years especialy in 87 was bad for bow hunting elk due to the hot wheather we had inthe state. Deer hunting was good. I seen a few bears but, have no desire to take one even during general season.

I think that logging priv. should be more restricted. As logging opp. destory an unreosnable amount of valuable hunting land.

I didn't get to hunt near as much as I usually do because I

bought a new business this year.

I usually hunt area 318 but didn't this year because of the restrictions. I don't mind the restrictions because I believe the hunting will be much better once the restrictions are lifted.

I could not get them to come in any closer then about 60 yards. I have hunted this area for 3 years and this year was the most elk that came in. I did not see any big elk in this area.

A ski injury did not permit me to draw my bow last year (1987) therefore I spent only one weekend hunting during bow season and this outing was armed only with cameras.

The major problem with bugling in Region I is that alot of people go out before the season and bugle. This stirs up the elk before archery season.

I feel people with all terrain vehicles should be prohibited from hunting I have seen them tear up so much land!

Perhaps some of the "problem" areas with elk could be opened for archery only hunting. I.E. where farmers and ranchers want the elk controlled but will not let rifle hunting on their property.

Would like to see some transplants of elk in lower Swan Valley.

I have sold my bow haven't seen any thing to shoot at in the last 10 years but a few doe deer.

I am a handicaped bow hunter and if you are going to restrict someone do it to the non residents and not to people who live, work and love Montana.

I enjoy the outdoors and hunting which we still have in Montana for a reasonable cost but I would like to see more game. I would rather pass up a number of poor shots than see no game. But I am not sure we can only enjoy both. I know most hunters do not hunt like I do.

I firmly believe the elk population in the areas I hunted are significantly below what they should be.

I shot a nice 6X6 bull with my rifle on the second day of rifle season, in a place I've never been before. But in bow season I seen over 30 head of elk, but they were to fare off in open country. I shot a two with my bow, but never came close, to much brush, for an arrow.

I didn't get a chance to hunt with bow in 87 . I'm looking forward to 88.

I feel that most bow hunter are good sportmen, and try to have clean shots for a good kill. There are good hunter and bad hunters in any large group of hunters as we have hear in Montana. I would like to think that my kdis will be able to coninue on in years to come to enjoy the sport of hunting in Montana.

Don't let Montan become a place where the rich come to hunt and where residents can hunt out of their own back yards- who does the animals belong to- the property owners or the public or no-one.

I think management shoudl promote bowhunting for deer. Bowhunting is compatible with settled areas like Bitterroot. Elk hard to kill for bow I suspect. I wounding of elk a problem?

I've never killed an elk with my bow. However, Ive had a few close calls, but couldn't get the bull to close in to under 40 yards-I'll keep trying though and one day I'll get one.

I think the low success rate has nothing to do with wildlife management or current big game populations it all depends on hunter skill and persistance.

It's disturbing to see sportsmen arguing over the archery hunters priveleges to hunt...even though the archers purchase licenses-spend money doing so etc. as other sportsmen do. With all the important issues at hand all sportsmen would better things by trying to work together than by tearing apart!

I live in the breaks (Lewistown to Lanousky). This is where I fish, hunt, camp, and hike and spend most of my leisure time. I do not want to go anywhere else and if denied access I will become a law breaker because this is the only place in the world

I can be happy. Please keep the breaks open to general public and if possible create a little more access (via more open trails). Please lift the current restrictions on limited bowhunting for elk in the 600 districts (621, 22, and 23). This is totally unnecessary and absurd. Just because your field men can't handle the number of hunters, don't restrict the area like this. Why not deputize people like me, let's 20-30, to help out in checking camps, tagged animals, etc. Most importantly please stop low flying aircraft, motorcycles and ATV's from destroying the hunt. I want ranchers to be able to run cows in the breaks but during hunting season no aircraft should be allowed (including fish and game) to fly under 10,000 ft. And no outfitter should be allowed to set up and monopolize an area.

Most bowhunters are willing to work together in an area and are not too concerned about there being too many hunters. I think "the more the better". The breaks are big and there's plenty of elk. However I think you should have a 5 year moratorium on the gun season here. Turn the CMR into a primitive weapon's area only. Extend bow season thru the general season and give the existing number of gun permits to hunters using black powder. And while this is in effect hunters would not be required to where the orange. Open a few more trails to disperse the camps but eliminate ATV's, motorcycles, and low flying aircraft. Once again ranchers should not be restricted or cut back on cattle in the breaks, but they should not fly low to look for them.

In general the breaks could be better managed 1) by having more on site personnel (possibly deputies) 2) Unrestricted bow hunting 3) A little more access 4) Less ATV's, motorcycle, and aircraft interference and 5) more restrictions on outfitters (who put on a big show).

But the best thing would be making it a "primitive weapons only area"

P.S. I also think you should have a 10 hp limit on the river. Portion to let's say C.K. creek.

I would rather see elk populations in the park reduced by primitive man hunts than by introducing wolves.

I JUST MOVED HERE FROM OREGON & HAVE HUNTED THERE FOR SEVERAL YEARS (15)-WAS SUCCESSFUL 4 YRS-THEY HAVE ALL THE THINGS THAT I FEEL MAKE ARCHERY HUNTING BETTER.

SUCCESSFUL ARCHERY DEPENDS ENTIRELY UPON THE WEATHER.

I am not a serious Bow hunter the hunt is more important than the kill.

Unless areas like the Green Dot can be watched, I see no point in restrictions that only affect hunters like myself who do

try to obey them.

I meet a lot nicer brand of people hunting with a bow & dedicated to sportsmanship than in rifle hunting, most hunters I see during rifle season are damm road hunters

The only complaint I have is, I don't like to see hunters in the woods with guns during archery season

Bowhunting is my favorite sport, bar none. I will do anything to improve the quality of the experience, to lengthen seasons, increase trophy size, liberalize bag limits, limit the number of opportunists, etc.

Sportsmen, not special interest rifle hunters must make the important management decisions considering young and old alike. We in this state are very blessed by not being over regulated in our hunting seasons and areas. We must all consider our hunting opportunities as a real privledge and not a special interest right!

I haven't had a lot of sucess in Montana, but the oportunity is there and the state is bueatfull to hunt in, it is nice to get out in Sept and see the season change then again in deep fall.

Montana is great

This season was an off year for me because I work as a wildland fire fighter and spend most of this years season battleing fires in northern California, although the money was good I certainly missed the time in the mountains of Mt. hunting. I understand some areas get congested but I would wish to see no changes in the districts I hunt in except increased hunting fees and longer break between seasons. I did kill a 6 pt. bull with a rifle after the forest quit burning.

The stock farm has a lot of Elk on it we need to be able to hut it with a bow or get them off some how. if I pay taxes for big game support they should not be for privet use

I don't know why there's so many questions about changing the archery season. I think people get frustrated with little or no success, and in turn find excusess or problems. I feel that it's up to me- the hunter, to adapt and better myself to the changing elk habitats.

The reason I haven't killed a Elk since Bow hunting isn't because there are no Elk, (For I see lot's of them) but because the shot selection is poor and I won't take any type of a chancey shot.

2. COMMENTS ON THE SURVEY

I am very glad you put out this survey. It does show me you have some interest in archery and game management.

Good survey. My first year at bow hunting was unsuccessful for both deer and elk, but I really enjoyed getting out and seeing alot of game close in. I feel bow hunters should practice alot in shooting their bows and should pick their shots careful. Maybe next year!

The kill, shot at, wound state etc., should also be obtained in the rifle season for comparison purposes.

I feel this survey is a good idea and I hope it will help improve the bowhunting and bowhunters in the state.

The one question that refered to the elk bugling in the past 10 years. I was unable to respond because this was my first year hunting elk with a bow.

I seen alot of deer but could not get a good shot.

I am a social researcher and I feel this survey was poorly constructed in several aspects.

This was filled out by Mrs. Dale Kimmel. My husband is out to sea, till August and will be back for bow season. Thank you for including him in the survey. Hope this helps.

Great survey, I wouldn't make rash changes from this. Our area needs more management for larger populations - stop cow rifle season totally. I'm from Missoula - plenty game there. Why? Management. Also too many roads getting road hunted constantly. Extreme hunting pressure in this area compared to Missoula.

Nice job putting this together. It will be interesting to see the results.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion. I hope I have completed this survey to your satisfaction.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to fill out this questionnaire. Bow hunting is my favorite type of hunting.

This was a good idea and change for us to express our opinions. I hope to see a change where to majority of the people are deciding.

This is a good survery and will help the parks commision to

regulate and understand regions that are not so well publicized. Thanks for your concern about our feelings!

This survey is discrimination toward the bowhunter. Why aren't rifle hunters being sent one of these! Why don't you manage big game in Montana and quit trying to manage bowhunters!

Please make the results of this survey available to the archery hunter.

I thought it was a very good questionnaire and I hope to hear more on it.

The special drawing was a good idea but how do you get the name of the respondent?

Thank you for writing and having me fill out my survey.

As mentioned before logging has had addition pressure on elk. Poaching has also been a contributing factor to big bull population. I am very pleased with the time spent to find out what "serious" archers feel.

Thanks for including me in your survey. Just hope I was some help!

I can see a need on your part for these surveys. The only objection I have is the questions about how much money I spend hunting. Hunting either with a bow or rifle is my primary recreation during the year. I don't believe my financial background is revelant!

My first year hunting in Montana. Very impressed with the season and helpfulness of the Dept. in answering any questions.

I'm pleased with the letter addressed survey, the sportsman can answer questions more complete. Also a letteer addressed survey is convenient for both research and sportsman.

Thank you very much for the opportunity for the chance to express my views.

I think surveys are a good idea. I would like to see surveys directed to rifle hunters.

Good survey - Questions 8 B, C, D, F, G, & I, I felt were poor quality questions.

I am very interested in the fish and wildlife department. Please feel free to send any surveys or anything concerning the fish and wildlife department.

I'm real glad that you sent me this because I feel we should hear what the hunters say rather than what other people say.

This is great. I hope it helps.

This survey is so bias it stinks! Why is it the Department has already determined there is a problem with archery hunting. Now they are telling the sportsman what they are going to do to correct that problem. I'm saying we do not have a problem. Leave the seasons as they are with the exception of region 6 elk permits in 621, 622, and 632. Change these back to the way region 4 and 7 manage the herd and we have solved the problem not created one. I wonder if some people in the Department ever stop and think who is paying their wages. I think its time they start listening to the sportsmen.

Sorry I'm so late returning this. I got busy working and put it in the back of my desk, and completely forgot about it. Thank you very much for sending me a questionnaire and next time it will be returned immediately.

Hopefully this survey and others like it will help the Game Dept. and show the sportsman some positive action and results.

Many of these questions require a qualifying comment, so the answers given are not necessarily as accurate as they could be.

Good Questions Hope its a successful survey

This is a great questionnaire that is very much needed! Great job. I hope the info can be put to use.

Again many of the opinion questions are geared toward limiting archery opportunities - that is terrible you should be working toward limiting rifle hunters their opportunities not the archers. The restricting regulations are not in the best interest of the hunters. Your projections/proposals are completely off base (management actions)

Thanks for a chance to express opinions.

I glad you finnally came out with a survey to see how we feel.

On the elk survey questions 8-10 should also be asked of rifle hunters

on the archery survey question #2 should also included (see other) which is the reason many hunters use the bow. I feel this survey (same basic questions) should be given to rifle hunters or you have nothing to compare with. Done by phone sampling or mail.

I really like how you are referring to us with this survey. Thanks

This is the first year I have seen one of these questionnaires and if all the questions are compiled with good results: I feel our big game seasons will benefit. Thanks

I think that this survey is a good idea and that there should be more of them. I also think that it makes for better relationships, because it ask the hunter what going on. and they can give you some input.

I think its good what you trying to do but you should make your questions a little clearer there was 2 I didn't understand, but I answered as effeciant as I could.

I don't think you people even have a reason to spend good money this way (this survey). Just leave a good thing alone!

I wished you would survey those just starting archery and also like to use rifles. I spend almost 2000.00 a year hunting just to get out and no one seems to take survies of o? troubled questions as Montana long time hunters! (resident hunter!) it's a wonderful life style trying to be closed out!.

Thought this questionnaire was very negatively worded - of 11 questions on page 3 only 1 was not a negative or restrictive option.

feel free to send other questionnaires and surveys.

I enjoy archery hunting & I want to thank you for sending me this questionar. It lets me know that you are interested in my opinion.

Many of the choices seem to be anti bow hunting. I feel this was a poorly worded survey. I do not wish any thing changed regarding archery hunting.

Question #8 was obviously biased negatively so #9 would surely be "None".

If you ask if season should be shrotened, ask if it should be lengthened and not as #8.h. attempted. I feel that this was biased toward setting answers you wanted to see,e.g. #8.e. Could have been better!

I think this survey will indeed help hunters in the future, by knowing how us hunters feel, there is a chance that things will change to benefit us.

This is a helpful survey.

The question could have been reworded some, but they did bring up some interesting ideas and questions.

Lets not forget, the Fish & Game Dept. was established to manage Fish & Wildlife - "Not to manage people"!!
We are all sportsmen first - whether we are bowhunters, gunhunters, or fishermen. I personally do not think this type of questionnaire can in anyway help the future of Bowhunting in the state of Montana.

I am an interested an active member of the Montana Bowhunters assn. I appreciate your concern and effort.

I do not like this Questionnaire - I feel it is trying to lead archery into a Bad name and do not feel it will accomplish any good Things for archery. Especially Questions like 6 thru 13 - we need to educate people to a very good sport -

The basic premise of this questionnaire is that archer's are in need of more regulation, I disagree! I feel that your time and money would be better spent, if you addressed; A) landowner/sportsman relations, B) improving the trophy population of big game species and/or C) more restrictive regulations that apply to all sportmen...not just archers.

I think you should open a spotlighting season
I feel you shouldn't waist taxpayers Money sending these surveys to people that don't even bowhunt. Thanks, your Taxpayer.

Your drawing for prizes should prove interesting. As there is no identification indicated on the survey that I can see, how will you know who's response is who's?

In my opinion consideration of the ideas in part II question 8 a b c f would seriously undermine archery hunting. There suggestion must not have geen well thought out.

I am very happy to see a survey of this Type being Done.

The implications of the questions in section 8 are scary. Are similar questions going to be posed to gun hunters? Are these questions based on biological data or are they politically motivated?

You outta send em out earlier so you don't have to keep you're prizes yourself.

This survey is a good way to get everyone's opinion on the archery season for 1989.

When you live in far eastern Montana, in order to hunt elk you

end up driving quite some distance. We use to be able to hunt the Glasgow area without getting permits for everything. Each year you put more area away from the archery hunter. Soon we'll have to drive to the other end of the state in order to hunt elk, unless we get "lucky" on the permit drawing. I've participated in numerous surveys and I must say this was a very 'negative' archery survey. In reading it, it seemed anti-archery. Shortening seasons, limited to one species, one district, higher prices by considerable amounts, and forced to choose whether you use a rifle or Bow. We enjoy the challenge of a bow hunt and the satisfaction of a good kill.

This survey was a great idea! I look forward to reading the results.
Do not increase the number of non-resident licenses.
Please increase the number of B.A. Bulls.
Cut a week off the beginning of the season and add a week to December.

This survey is a good idea for the state and people in the state.

Glad to see you are taking time & effort to discover what archers want; however, I think the questionnaire is slightly biased in favor of an either-or policy on choice of archery/rifle seasons. Has the Dept. been considering a change in this area? Montana already has too many things against it; don't shut down another attractive reason for living here - leave the dual season as it is!

I also think farmers should be allowed an extra permit or two to help thin herds of destructive deer on their grain fields - w/the option of keeping the meat. Thanks!

I enjoy helping with your surveys and would enjoy by helping in the future. thank you.

This is a pretty neat thing your doing.

I think this survey is a good idea. I hope to learn of the results and decisions forth coming.

My only comments are as I said on p.3, a fact sheet on the issues should be included with a questionnaire on possible management actions. Keep up the good work!

I would like to see more questionnaires sent out to get a more accurate survey.

I think this is a good survey and I hope something is done. with bow hunting! I think we should influence more people to get into archery season.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

My initial hostile and uncooperative reaction to this survey when I read about it in the Blg. Gazette was completely reversed by my MBA newsletter which strongly encouraged and promoted full cooperation. I sincerely hope this helps archery hunting in Montana for Montanans.

Don't appreciate some of Bias Questions in this survey. It is evident that these questions are definitely directed to be used against bowhunters.

The articles in #8 are for the birds.

You should do this every year.

This is a good survey. We need to keep Archery Hunting in Montana. This is important.

Last year was my first year bowHunting and it was Great! I saw lots of whitetail deer very close but no luck getting any thanks for this survey! P.S. I did get my First w/Rifle though.

Enjoy seeing a survey of the archery season in Montana.

I feel this survey is biased against Archers & Archery hunters. I feel a suvey of this type should have been written and Administered by archery hunters not government buracrats.

I feel that Questionnaire's should Be sent out at least every 2 year to fined out how efective the Different seasons effect the animals.

I think this was worth the ink & like what you are doing. Send me one next year.

I feel this is a very prejudice survey, which I first considered ignoring completely.

If questions such as, how many elk did you shoot at?, and how many did you hit?, are asked of Bow Hunters they should also be asked of Rifle hunters or not at all! The implied question of part III appears to be how many animals did you wound! Looking at sheer numbers and the type of hunting rifles offer, I'm sure many more animals are maimed in this way than numerous archery seasons combined. I answered the survey, although as a memver of the Billings Rod and Gun Club we were to oppose it, I feel constructive input is better than no input!

I feel this survey was a good idea to get some input from the archery hunters

I think this a very good Idea.

I like this survey because it let's the Wildlife departments know what is going on with archery hunting

I think this was a good survey to put out because I can understand why you want to know this.

I didn't hunt much Elk with my bow but I went with somebody else (my dad)

Thank you for caring enough to do these surveys.

Thanks for taking the time to put out this survey to better our hunting opportunities.

Thanks for puting out this survey so that it may better our hunting oppertunity

You omited questions about turkey hunting with a bow. The prizes offered are a nice idea but I think I would have returned the survey without the chance of winning one. I'd rather see money spent on habitat improvmnt and acquisition.

This is a good way to see how the Bow hunters do and how the elk population is.

These questions were all loaded questions for either or season which I'm against. Very poor survey I msut say. "We've got the best seasons in the United States let keep them"!!

Thank you for your efforts relative to archery season.

A very good quality archery survey

Theres one Qu that you should ask.

How many elk did you see and could have shot but pass up!

Thank you for asking the public what their concerns are.

I believe more surveys should be sent to licensed & interested sportsman along with an annual or semi-annual report to advise these people of matters of impending or imposed legislation which will affect their rights as Mont. residents to hunt & fish Mont.

Please continue these type of surveys as I feel they are an important step in keeping archery and big game hunting as good as it is and hopefully making it better for both wildlife and mankind.

I think the Dept. should send out a survey for rifle hunters also.

I consider question 8 to be extremely negative towards archery hunting and limiting to an individuals opportunity to enjoy the

experience of hunting in Montana.

The Montana Bowhunters Assn. is a self centered organization that feels they are the only people in the state that knows what is going on in regards to archery. Just because every acre of Montana is not open to hunting does not mean we don't have the best hunting around. I was glad to fill this form out. I just hope the MBA did not write it up. All though I feel that some of the questions had MBA characteristics.

I feel that this questionnaire is not in favor of Bow Hunting it all either wants to cut season shorter, cost more or eliminate alot of the bow hunters altogether the reason I moved here was for the bowhunting. Colorado has more elk with the same type of season this booklet leans tword I might as well live their instead.

Appreciate the interest this survey shows in archery hunting.

I think this is a good idea. Helps you guys keep track of some of the Elk & Deer populations around Montana.

I like your questions to keep thing straight.

I enjoy recieving these questionnaire's to help out some. feel free to call or send any other pamplets out to me I will help you out in any way I can for the sport of hunting or other outdoor sports.

Elk are at an all time high, hunting pressure whether with rifle or bow is not significantly more than it was 10 yrs ago and page 3 of this survey is the biggest crock of bull_____ I've ever read. I also wonder why out of the 8-10 people I know who archery hunt I'm the only one that received this survey. Your inside cover says all archery hunters.

I sure hope you guys don't get any stupid ideas from question number 8.

this is a pertty good sorrey booklet. I think you should make people take a test before going out to hunt with a bow.

I don't like this stupid surey & I don't like to be bugged about it all the time. THANK YOU

I have enjoyed this survey and do hope you consider this one of mine seriously. you know as well as I, that weather change affects animal behaviour considerably - I don't think a 2 weeks extension during bow season is too much to ask. Don't be afraid to send more of these surveys, I think they are great & you will only know how we honestly feel by sending them to us. Thanks.

I feel this survey is totally anti-Bowhunters. Most questions reflect restriction. No where does it permit or reflect Bowhunters opinion or suggestions on improving the Archery Season or Hunting. Next time you take a survey put Bowhunters on the panel that makes up the survey and include all animals that are Hunted in Montana.

I have used archery equipment all of my life but I enjoy hunting with rifles and enjoy collecting them. What my whole message to the commission is: I Love Hunting.

Hunting with a Bow provides me with more of a oppurtunity for the type of hunt I like.

Not just provideing an animal to kill.

The kill to me is not important. But the standard, or quality you yourself impose is what counts.

In Reference to Question Number 8 Part D I choose to oppose it. If the majority of the \$20 (increased fee for Archery Stamp) went to aqiring leased land or purchasing land for Archery only area's then I would favor it wholehearted. Im glad to see through this questionnaire that the Fish & Game is finally taking an interest in the opinions of the people who pay thier wages and Montana's Bowhunters.

Dont Send me any of this garbage any more.

I have trouble with the questions relative to favoring or opposing rule on policy changes. Without an explanation of what the problem is or what the opportunity is, I have difficulty favoring change. I think this section weakens the effectiveness of the questionnaire.

I wonder what the point of this survey is? I also wonder why the attitude of Rifle hunters is not surveyed.

Thank you for the research in to archery for the future generations.

I feel that this is a good idea. And I hope you get a lot of responce. Well I hope I get a good chance to get a elk next year.

I don't feel secret areas should specifically be pinpointed in any surveys et. publications, because it would ruin the solitude of the experience! You want information which could specifically destroy a district if published or was made available to the public.

-First of all this is a very good questionnaire-I hope it is helpful.

-An archery only or rifle only choice would not hurt my feelings at all.

-My favorite place to hunt is around Lincoln but there are very few bulls-why couldn't we have more areas like the Highwoods which is permit only for elk during rifle season. There are a lot of bulls in the Highwoods during archery season (unfortunately there are getting to be too many people there too.) -Even though I hunt with a longbow I really don't believe the type of archery tackle is an issue at all. The type of bow is personal preference only.
-I think we are all thankful for the long, generous archery season.

I own Big Sky Army Navy and sell and service bows. I thank you for this survey and hope my children will be able to enjoy this sport, both bow and gun.

There is a distinct difference between the bow hunters and gun hunters who go out with a bow. Several questions in this book are only for the latter group, confusing information and issues (Not to mention data!) I suggest seeking help from the M.B.A.- (Montana Bowhunters Association) for clarity on a bowhunters questionnaire.

Very interesting survey. Hope to be more help next year.

I am glad to see that you doing a survey like this. Some thing will have to be done soon or archery hunting will get worse instead of improving I can see how much things have change in the last 5 years. They arnt getting any better.

Some of the questions are very personl!

I believe that surveys like this are a good idea so that the fish and game can have a better idea of what going on with hunters opinion.

I hope this survey is used to help educate the general public on bowhunting.

I believe doing surveys like this could really help with game management, and also the hunters. I believe you should do more things like this in the future.

I think this survey had some good question and had some bad question to. PS. Thank you for sending me this, panflip.

Some questions did not pertain to my hunting situation. As this is the first year in May that I have archery hunted.

Many laoded questions. Bad survey and should be discarded. All information is biased.

I was shocked to see this in the mail, but I like it very much.

This questionnaire did not have much thought put into it. If I'm eligible for the drawing how do you know who sent this in before Feb. 15.

Why didn't you start with a statement of the problem you are trying to solve if there is one? Do gun hunters feel picked on? Do you need more money? Do you believe there are too many archeries, too large a harvest, too much harassment?

The survey was rather general in some of its questions, Part II #8, and depending on certain circumstances I might have answered them differently, yet I realize that in order to keep this survey brief you needed to make the questions a little more general. Also, in Part III, I believe you could add a question about the number of elk a hunter passed up due to certain circumstances. If it's any help, I passed up 6 branch antlered bulls within 30 yards due to the shot angle possibly resulting in a poorly hit animal instead of in a quick humane kill.

I think the questions in this survey were good.

This is an outstanding questionnaire, and I hope my comments will help.

In part III, questions 9 & 10 are insulting. You are asking if I am a slob hunter- I AM NOT A SLOB HUNTER!

I think that your survey is a good idea and should be done every season. The fact that a lot of archers will probably fill this out is great. But I'm sure a lot of us would prefer to see your out come and what other archers feel would just like to see what the response was.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

This survey is a great idea. It is my opinion that gun hunting is the most detrimental reason for fewer animals. These animals need less pressure better habitat as well as more habitat. There are too many roads in these areas and too few natural predators for a large healthy population of elk and deer.

*Question #6 in Part II is the most ridiculous and absurd idea I have ever heard asked at any survey of sportsmen or game managers in my life.

This was a highly biased questionnaire. Wording in it was such as it seemed to make the archer seem a criminal. I filled this out in common courtesy-not for your "incentives". If this information is worded to go against us, you'd better prepare for war.

In regards to question 8C about hunting in oen district you wouldn't have an equal amount of hunters in some districts.

I happy to see this survey and hope you get good response from it, because I think only the serious bowhunter will resoned.

I am very willing to help out in any way I can to improve or maintain archery hunting in MT. I've enjoyed the quesitonaire and await the results to be published.

*A section should have been provided for name and address for the incentive drawing.

*This quesiton is ridiculous in the fact that it has absolutely no game management value. You can't possibly determine the number of mortally wounded, sueprficially wounded or grazed. If no value judgements to that effect can't be attached to the question, the only possible use of this statistic would be as a club against archery hunting. In that regard I wouldn't answer this question regardless of the no. of animals I may or may not wound.

I filled out this survey after having second thoughts. Several of the questions were poorly worded and could be used adversely by those opposing archery hunting. Before taking management action I would like to see a similiar survey done with rifle hunters. Trophy size animals have dwindled in areas I've hunted although numbers have increased.

This survey only measures opinion not fact! It use should be used only to express hunter opinion. It does not express true facts to game or game management.

Surveys are a way to become aware of thing going on in your state.

I think the survey is against bow hutners in gneeral a slob bow hunter is a slob rifle hunter.

I am more than happy to assist in this survey. However I feel that bowhunters should not be the only "group" to be surveyed. I believe all hunters should be surveyed.

Thanks for doing the study. These are important questions you've brought to the surface.

My concerns are about this survey. I don't understand why you are doing it. I have neverin my life had such a survey because I rifle hunt. I think you are picking archery hunters unfairly.

This is a super good Pamphlet. Good job.

I think this is a excellent pamphlet. For your survey and some excellent questions.

Thank you for your interest in bowhunting.

Thanks for asking my opinion.

I think is a good thing to do so people can make it a better place to hunt, and you'll know how everyone feels.

Very good survey questions.

Glad to see your trying to gather information. Hope you can analize the info and draw specific correct conclusions from the survey!

This survey seems to be full of questions that are destined to receive negative answers form most bowhunters. I, therefore, question why such a survey is being done and how may of these ideas I will see implemented anyhow. If I see soem of these implemented (such as shorter seasons, or no rifle & bowhunting) then why bother with the survey only to ignor the results.

I appreciate the department taking the time to consider my opinion. I hope the information I have submitted is helpful in the research of big-game in Montana.

To much money being spent year after year on studies. with no improvements. Put more money on Elk transplants instead of gates.

Thanks for your concern on Bow hunting- to us it is a season to look forward to- to help elk populations it would be nice to limit post & pole sales-at least in area 321-I think they eat elk all summer-anytime they want to.-

on question 8b. does this mean that if you choose Elk with the Bow that you can still hunt Deer Bear antelope ect with the rifle? If this is so I would be in favor.

Form to long

I feel it is important to do survey to improve hunting

Thank you for being concerned!

I am glad to see that people are sending out these question ers to find out how the archery season is doing.

Thank you for sending me this survey so I can express my opinion and concerns.

I am very pleased with the chance to fill out this survey and

express my opinions.

Question #8 has far too many restrictive and/or negative questions with only 1 (8h) less restrictive options- this shows throughout the survey - A lack of Fair balance. I don't feel it is a well designed statistical questionnaire.

I think your questionnaire was good, keep up the good work & don't let hunting turn into a rich man's sport or a lottery.

I believe more of this should be done.

This survey is a good idea, I hope the input will be positive and will give a pattern of the way archery seasons will be set up in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to participate

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this survey. I like the idea of the Dept. taking the opinions of Montana hunters into consideration when deciding management directions.

You might want to reword Question #9 on last page "in the past".

Why is this being distributed to non archery hunters, such as myself? It looks like a waste of money. Please reply

Please make the results of this survey public so all people, bowhunters or not, may see what the bowhunters needs are and that he doesn't deplete the herds as much as the general public may think.

I appreciate the concern for the sport of bow hunting and as far as that goes for the game management that the state of Montana has for it's own.

I am disappointed in the quality of this survey and am reluctant to participate but I will due to my concern for the sport.

Many questions are too vague and refer to either one or all game animals which is inappropriate and inaccurate.

Hunting problems and perceptions are not universal from one district to another and remedies should not be applied as such.

*Present archery field studies do not accurately reflect situations statewide and must be before judgement is passed. These studies are far too short a duration and do not include enough parameters for conclusive, accurate results, that will yield sound recommendations.

Why has a similar survey not be conducted with rifle hunters who exert more pressure, harvest, etc.?

Exactly what inferences will be made from this survey?

What has the income from archery licenses been used for?

There is a lot of anti-bowhunter sentiment in this state, at all levels, including the F.& G. Commission. Most "Complaints" are

based solely on hearsay and mythology, not solid facts. I appreciate our archery season very much. Most serious, hard-core bowhunters do, too. All we ask is that we retain what opportunities we now enjoy, we don't want more.

I feel some of the questions in this survey are "loaded", and I sincerely hope you don't decide to use them against us, without at least making the same comparison with gun hunting, using the same questions. (such as "How many elk did you hit?) We all know a hit does not mean a kill, with the bow and arrow.

Thank you for your concern for future of bow hunting.

I would like to hear what decisions and results from this survey are concluded from it.

I'm glad you are making this survey and I hope you will send me the results and also please let the sportsman make the final decision on changing there season.

I think some of your questions are loaded to give statistical numbers that are not true. Most bowhunters would like to see 100 Elk a day that are bulls so they will want more elk in an area. The hunter who doesn't see an elk will think its because there are no elk. Chances are he is just a noisy hunter. Part II #8 These questions are too much like they are based on Washington states laws. From this survey you should be able to to say about anything you want to change the laws.

2/10/88

John Cada
Ass't Research Bureau Chief
Mt. Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Siixth Ave.
Helena, Mt 59620

Dear Mr. Cada,

I am enclosing this letter with the archery hunting survey that includes additional comments. I would like to make a few general statements about the survey and then refer to it more specifically.

First of all, I feel that the survey is very threatening in its nature. Much is said about possible restriction of opportunity without specific reasoning. What are the overall objectives, tasks, and expected outcomes of the survey? I think sportsman are entitled to know exactly what this information is going to be used for. The survey also contains many questions about archery and big game seasons. In some cases it does not refer to a specific season, but lumps them all in one category. Is this how you manage all game populations? I would like to think that deer, elk, etc. are all handled separately by hunting district. What field studies are being conducted in conjunction with this study? What are their objectives, and expected outputs? Will the results of these studies be utilized statewide, or do they apply only to certain areas and habitats? One such study I believe will take place in Dillon, where areas have been closed to archery for a number of years. This is a very specific situation with its own set of parameters that should not be applied statewide. This is the survey generalization that I referred to earlier which makes me feel threatened, is unnecessary, and unprofessional.

The remainder of my comments refer to questions within the survey. Why is the archer asked what district he hunts in most? I personally like to keep my areas to myself and would be reluctant to answer this correctly. If you ask archers this question, then all types of hunters should be asked, which is logical for many questions in the questionnaire. Part II, no. 8: This section really bothers me. The main problem is that there is no justification given for suggested action. Why should anyone be subjected to these suppositions when there is no just cause? Item 8a. Does this question refer to all species, or just one? There is quite a difference. Item 8d. In my opinion, regulating by the use of monetary value is an unrealistic way to manage people. What has the archery stamp been used for in the past? Do these expenditures differ from rifle licences?

In part III questions 8, 9, and 10, reference is made to wounding of elk. If you are going to develop statistics about bow hunters, then let's do the same about rifle hunters. Without doing so, you generate unfair skepticism about one sport over the other.

I hope that you take these comments constructively. I have written them with sincere concern for the sport. I would also appreciate a return letter that answers some of the questions that I have raised.

Sincerely,

3. ENFORCEMENT.

To Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Park, I did not fill out your survey because in the 88 season was approached by one of the wardens in the upper Yellowstone and was treated like a criminal. Also if you don't change your policies in Montana, hunting is coming to an end.

Although I'm new to hunting with a bow, I love it. The abundance of game see is outstanding. I haven't killed anything yet, but I'm very chosey. In my area (blunting) deer all summer goes on. This I feel hurts and harasses the deer. I would like to see this practice stopped, now!

Need more game wardens, fewer biologists! Get rid of outfitters set aside nonresident licenses.

I believe that if you would put a 10,000 dollar fine on all elk taken and not checked, you would get a better reading on what goes on. There is no game check during archery season in our area. If money isn't available deputize people who would work for free while they are in the mountains. Last year I called an outfitters hunter in during archery season. He was carrying a 44 mag and scope. Said I was just seeing how close I could get. Do you believe that. I was 18 miles from the nearest road. Thanks for taking the time to ask how I feel.

I feel the wardens should stop treating all hunters like a fellow until the hunter has proven he is innocent. Why do the wardens assume a hunter has broken the law? This is not the way the constitution is written!!

Combine areas 631 and 632 back the way it was - Combine the permit total. Leave it alone!!

My father and I helped plant the elk herd here in Glasgow, Montana "South Valley County". My family and I love to just go out there to see the elk and deer, spring, summer, fall and winter. I am an avid archery hunter and I want to preserve that right along with my sons ability to be able to continue the hunt for me when I am no longer able. We must get back our wardens to control illegal kills with small rifles, non licensed hunters and harassment with vehicles, horses and airplanes. We must protect our herds!! Not parks! The "good quality hunt" is out, until there is some control on the habitual law violators that exist in South Valley and south Phillips County.

I realize enforcement division is hampered by lack of funds, but I favor a get tough policy on violations.

I have run into dirt biker's terrorizing some hunting areas.

Outfitters in the Gardiner area are in the air constantly looking for big game. I would like to see some regulations against air spotting, but don't know what form would work.

For the most part I feel the F & G are responsive to the hunters needs in our immediate area. I feel very strong, more game wardens in the Missouri Breaks would effect better control over the hunting violations. I feel paying for hunter access is wrong.

(Part II, Question 10.)

I'm from the east where stopping at check stations is mandatory. I can not believe how easy it would be to "poach" game in Mt. I can only hope that most of the archers are honest.

The hunters in south vally are tired of watching elk being run around with pickups and being shot with 22 cal rifles.

If we could get two more wardens for the archery season they would pay for themselves with the tickets they would write. The hunters from Wolf Point & Sidney are the worst of all and should be watched very closely. I dont understand how the fish & game can cut on wardens when their main purpose is to protect the wildlife animals. the hunters who pull these acts know there are no wardens around so it is on the increase. I am willing to bet the kill rate for Districts 631 & 632 are out-of-line this year (1987) and it is because of the fact their were no wardens to put poaching to a stop. My Dad turned a case in 3 years ago and nothing was done. Maybe if you quite spending all the buget on the parks and put it were it belongs in the wildlife area we wouldn't have such a kill rate and the elk would be around. Also if you opened districts 631 & 632 into one district the hunting pressure would be more even and the elk we run so much & also the hunters would have a better hunt.

I think the fish & game could do away with about half of their glorified Administration and the nit picking laws which have been created to catch basically honest people making innocent mistakes For example

Fining a person for putting a game animal out of its misery after it has been hit by a vehicle.

Fining people for not cutting the entire notch out in their game tags where the month & day are.

There are not laws which promote good will between Sportsmen and the State of Montana, they are simply a pile of you know what thought up by bored Bureaucrats who are not employed in a meaningful manner. P.S. Try furnishing the proper size envelopes.

Fish and Game Personel should make a more concerted effort to Bust the poacher & Hard-core violations and use less time & energy on the accidental transgressons. This would foster

greater & unified efforts to work with rather than oppose the Dept.

If you have a mandatory check in of all bow kills, a great number of the slobs will disappear and the persons that are making their bow kills with rifles will drop out too. I find a lot of rifle killed elk during bow season, but don't bother to turn them in anymore because of lack of effort by enforcement to make arrests

In my experience I have seen more people than not ignore road closures.

It dosen't do any good for 1 man to follow the rules and 3 people not to

If more fine's were given out the Fish & Game could get more money & it would help in all of our districts.

When I stopped in at Miles City office to chat with the law enforcement officer regarding camo hunter orange, I felt he was very rude and acted like I was bothering him.

Was not checked by warden - saw none witnessed disregard for law - such as - no boat lights before light & after dark. None domestic cattle compete with elk for feed. They should allow archers to harvest these cattle - because rancher say they can't get them out of the willows! Road into area (410) should be maintained (graded) just before the season opens and at least once midway thru the season!

I think that trophy deer & elk are being killed out of season and or at night and this has terrible impact on the quality of hunting for those of us who hunt legally.

I feel Big Game population should increase but hunting restrictions will not accomplish this. More game wardens & stricter enforcement will slow down a great number of illegal kills.

I was in law enforcement for 12 years and made it a pratice to treat people like I wanted to be treated. It seems like in the last couple years I hear more complaints from hunters about the attitudes and actions of wardens. I believe at the game checks wardens could be a little more courteous. Lets use a little tack..

Biggest problem is rifle poaching of deer and Elk during bow season

I love to hunt with the bow. I feel that it is the Best way to hunt. I would like to see people who poach with the bow not be able to hunt. I hate to see people abuse the sport. They rewen it for guys who love the sport.

Its not the kill that I enjoy its the hunt and just getting out that I like the most and just seeing animals.
A lot of people misuse the sport what we really need is more enforcement with out harrasment.

Part II No. 7

To many elk are being taken with fire arms during the archery season, do to the fact hunters are allowed to carry them in their vehicles. I know this to be fact in our area in Superior, and I think it is pure (Bull)

This comment has nothing to do with Archery, it is about wardens I think the number of wardens should be increased for the poaching/spotlighting deer in this area.

There are too many rifle kills during archery season.

There are too few archery only areas! Area 290 receives heavy pressure for 3 solid months! ?13, Region people consider Bow hunters a nuisance. Helena people (Joe Egan) feel archers should be restricted further. I support a preference for gun or archery only in the environment of open discussion. I feel the present environment (Fish and Game Commission) does not provide for the needed compromises to implement. Ethics a big issue (gun and archers). While bowhunting in breaks every year there is ample evidence to support the contention, "More game (Elk) is killed illegally than legally". We need more enforcement and less professional biologists. Biologists and their policies are totally helpless in Montana to poaching, weather, private land leasing. We need them but short term we need to stop the unethical hunter and poucher.

Should be no season For mule deer does.
Need more warden to enforce regulation.

If you want to increase license fees please use the proceeds to help catch pochers. The illegal kills in the Highwoods and the Beartooth area is totally ridiculous In my opinion those people caught poching should be barred from hunting and fishing, for life!!! (I'm speaking of rifle season)
How many elk are shot in the Highwood foothills by the Ranchers and ranch hands from November to March. How can these people be so lucky as to get on of the 150 permits issued every year?

Thre has been a substancial increase in archery supplies & stamps being sold in the state. I feel alot of these people are out there because of increased odds of seeing elk. I have personally seen alot (8 this year along) of elk wounded. People aren't being conscience of what is happening. Also, I've personally have seen 80-90% of the vehicles of bowhunters with RIFLES in them. A few instances I've seen firearm out in the field with the bowhunters. This alos goes along with that I am increasingly

hearing more & more firearm shots each year. I feel people are abusing the archery priviledges!

A lot of elk have been poached out of the White Sulphur Springs area. I'm sure other areas have suffered too. I would like to see stricter enforcement of these laws.

I feel that more attention should be paid to poachers (spotlighters) during archery season.

I notices several vehicles passing my camp at approx 3 am this season.

Also a reward for poachers should be posted (or upped if there already is one). Thank you.

I like the peacfullness of bow hunting but this last year I heard more Gun shots and spooked animals than I could count. Keep the rifles out. They don't need a scope to scope out game Binoculars work fine.

I feel that their should be more regular game checks throughout the state to cut down on the number of poachers and persons shooting animals and transferring tags. I feel that more game checks will cut doen on poachers considerably.

I would like to inform someone of the usage of military helicopters for the use of rousting elk in Higgins park (454) this past hunting season. How uncool!!!

Illegal blocking of access Road to BLM-CMR lands by the 6X and 7W Ranch operated by Mike Fogel West of Jordan - he writes permits to travel on county road

I am tired of being stopped by fish & game for just driving down the rd. I am in the area during the summer & winter where I hunt, working for some one. & don't get stopped. if you want to stop people put up your game chks.

We need more check points for the Elk, deer, and antelope because me and a friend were bow hunting, and we found elk body without the head I took a picture of the body. fawn at district 622 05

Should be less game Wardens on F.W.P. Payroll

follow upon Question (11) I know of people who use aircraft to find elk hurds - to hunt.

follow up to Question (13) I shoot a bow all year - when I hunt I have never seen a check station - ever - I know people who take

elk with a bow and never tag them - because they knew Fish and Game will not be there. That makes me mad Do something

idea: All bagged game must be "checked in" "validated" with the

nearest game warden-Ranger station or other designated point such as truck stops - gas stations weigh stations etc. this would give F&G exact harvest numbers, help check poaching
This system of Validating Bagged Game works!

Give the warden's more freedom. Running out of gas \$ or holding to 'hours'.(worked) - it doesn't get it.
Beaverhead co. is a big county
I never saw a warden this year. (bow or rifle season)

CRM was buzzing with light aircraft this year and there were some poachers shooting rifles also, since 623 became special permit the pressure has decreased but so has the partoling and this years it was a free-for-all

I have bow hunted for 12 years. It seems to me that if you wanted to cut back it would be on gun hunting. I am very concerned about my freedom to bow hunt. I have 2 close relatives and a good friend, who are all game wardens for the state and Federal game wardens. And we all get very _____of when people take it upon themselves to run our hunting with a bow. Bows were around before anyone even thought about guns. If we want to do something lets get these stupid people that dont know mules from mule deer and get the rifles out of there hands. also god bless our conservation offices and game wardens. They are doing a great job as far myself and my hunting friends are concerned.

While bearing in the Pryor Mountains, I was questioned by a game warden residing in Red Lodge. He was courteous, friendly and a pleasure to have to deal with.
All Fish and Game officers should treat people the way this man did. This one meeting added greatly to my respect for the Montana Fish and game.

The State of Montana Owns More land than they can efficiently Manage Now. So Raising License fee's to purchase More Land is Not the Anwser to the, Hunters from the Cities. demands of free Access and unlimited hunting Privilages. The Sportsmen Associations & clubs in Montana are made up Mostly of Urban dwellers who insist upon antagonizing the Landowners at every opportunity. Yet they are continually Howling for free Access I am Not a Landowner, but I work on a Ranch and every Hunting Seasons we are continually chasing Poachers and Tresspassers who do not even stop and Ask to hunt, these So called Sportsmen are 98% from the Larger Cities in the State. My whole Point is that The Regulations are fine as they are. Enforcement is NOT. To few Wardens To Cover To large an Area. Thank You

Poaching needs much greater attention in Montana. Some how through more game wardens or some other means poaching needs to be slowed down and eventually stopped.

Item 14, reflects only 1987 expenses I invested in good equipment 9 years ago and still shoot it. Value of \$1,200.00+ item 11. All terrain vehicles - drivers obviously hunting & not retrieving game should be fined 500.00 by game wardens, not forest service. - Need advertisement of public hearings. - survey and incentives good idea - thanks

There has been pocher in our area that killed at least 3 deer in one field and by the musselshell river disease Killed alot of deer.

I would like to see something done to stop these things. Thank you

I feel overall hunting is good but the time has come to stop all illegal and untagged elk taken even if it means a shore of increased license money going to fight this. If we are to maintain future hunting a land campaign must be started.

All license should be purchased before season starts.

Hire more wardens to cut down the poaching.

Require all archery kills to be brought in to F&G within so many days. This would allow for inspiration and look at whether things appear to be a legitimate harvest with a bow.

Insufficient number of game wardens meant some one elk killed by rifle in the bow season here in the Bitterroot. Common knowledge. Of course poaching is common in Montana. Over around Lewistown it si atrocious (and wide open at night). Game wardens told us he was not paid to work at night. Understandable, but doesn't help the problem (deer mostly there).

I think the F&G dept. greatly udnerestimates the huge number of trophy bulls that are taken by archers. Also, I realize that the dept. is short handed, but there is a lot of elk taken illegally in archery season by rifles. We need more game wardens in the field.

The area 216 has an extreme amout of rifle hunting pressure as well as people driving behind locked gates during archery season. Area 216 also contians the best trophy ram area in the state which has caused the extensive use of aircraft for spotting sheep and elk. This is unfair for the rest of the hunters as well as the animals.

I would favor a increase in fee's. If the money went for the immediate benefit of big game animals. I strongly oppose the spending of any money from hunters going to parks, golf courses, picnic areas ect. including increased administrative personell. We need more game wardens for more enforcement fo laws we already have.

Its time we stop thinking of the dollars and start thinking about our game. There is a lot of game being taken with a gun during archery season. Let get back to the serious hunter and put a stop to sum of these then.

Need more officers in the field during archery season. To many multiple animals being taken without anyone noing about it.

I would like to see more lawenforcement during hunting season to enforce existing laws (tag checks)etc.

Also the abuse of closed roaded areas (green dot) etc.

No to crossbows because of the potential use by slob hunters. Archery as it is now takes skill, dedication, and hardwork. But the rewards are worth it.

I would liek to see a harder punishment on poachers, an on "bow hunters" who have to use a rifle first. Over all I like archery season the way it is.

I reported an aircraft that was being used in spotting elk so they could be driven back onto private land, that was charging \$200.00 a day to hunt. I witnessed the push of the gam eby personnel dressed as hunters.

I appreciate the work you are doing. I only wish the state could hire more wardens.

I did not receive a cover letter in this package.

I don't think land owners that charge to hunt on their land should be able to file for crops damaged.

I think if laws are tougher and are enforced. It will make hunting better for the real sportsmen in Montana.

I hunt legally either with bow or rifle in season but it is very distressing to ahve lvie with the amount of poaching and game violations that I see in this area by locals and out of state hunters. I realize our local game wardens are stretched to the breaking point. I have reported numerous violations and kills, on the spot and have yet to get a response. These violaters are robbing me and you. Please authorize some more game protectors for this area.

I have had many chances at deer but they are very stunted in Bitterroot Valley area. Elk in are pathetic spicemens. To much timber butchery going on in area. It's sad and getting worse. Also, much vehicular and aircraft harasement going on. Bikes and 3-wheelers should be outlawed. Not enough law

enforcement or supervision.

1) Licences could be required to be worn on back, if things get any worse during rifle seasons. More abuses then.

We need more bulls! Also more defined laws on use of motorized vehicles on private and public land-also enforcement

I feel the Yellowstone river should be patrolled better in archery season because of trespass violations on private land.

I elk hunted early archery season in the McKillop Rd. area off Hwy 2. I felt the biggest obstacle to success was all the poaching with rifles, especially at night, that occurred the week prior to archery season opening and during archery season. I heard numerous shots, however unfortunately was not lucky enough to come across any poachers. All in all, though, I enjoyed the archery season, and am looking forward to hunting in 1988.

I feel game related violations should be substantially, \$1,000 is hardly much of a fine for killing a big bull illegally, \$10,000 would be much more appropriate. An out-of-state hunter, such as the ones last year that were hunting with the outfitter outside of Missoula killing bulls and leaving them lay and going after bigger ones, were caught and had to put up about \$3000 in bail money when they skipped bail. The judge ruled they would keep the bail money as a fine and that would be sufficient for the killing of several bulls, thats bull----!! Why weren't these guys brought back to MT held for trial put in jail for 6 months, fined \$20,000 and made life hell for them, but no \$3,000 all a bunch of bulls are worth to people who don't hunt them! So in a sense all were telling people is bring a extra grand and you can kill all the bulls you see.

Poaching is a big problem in the Anacond MT. area!!!

We need more enforcement personnel, present officers are over worked and under paid.

There should be more game wardens in the field. I have been hunting for 11 years in the Area around Potomac and I met (1)! I hunt a good many hours and should see more than that.

I firmly believe that if hunting pressure continues to increase during the bugling season, that changes need to be implemented. Such as a late post general season archery season. More hunters out in the woods later may also help curb poaching. We need more game wardens in our areas!!!

There is too many unethical bow hunters! In area 100 there is a problem with Idaho people hunting in Mont. without a license.

OVERALL I AM PRETTY SATISFIED WITH HUNTING IN GENERAL. IF ANYTHING I WOULD LIKE TO SEE STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT MANPOWER IS LOW, BUT WHAT GOOD ARE RULES IF THERE NOT ENFORCED. MAYBE PRICES COULD BE RAISED TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO HIRE PART TIME HELP DURING THE SEASONS.

Archers who hunt on private-posted land should have a fine that is triple what it is for the general season, as they are harder to catch -no shot to be heard. They are being dropped off & picked up at a specific time, so land owners can't even spot a car on their property.

Stiffer archery regulations will not help number's of animals, without stopping poachers & stiffer regulations in the general season too. As of now there are not enough wardens in the field to stop poaching. We need more wardens not regulations.

I think there is a need for all archery kills to be reported (like you do for sheep) and thoroughly checked out to make sure they were taken legally. Also if hunter (archery) numbers continue to grow, some system will have to be developed to limit hunter numbers.

I was too busy to get some real hunting in but enjoy it when ever I can go. I would like to see a check station once in a while I've never seen one during archery season in our area leaves it wide open for poachers. also no horses except for packing out

I feel that archery hunting is fine but I feel that after a archery kill it must be mandatory to have it checked thru to confirm arrow cause of death - to many hunters are using rifles to fill there archery stamp-

IN THE AREA I HUNTED (380) I BELIEVE THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF POACHING. I ALSO BELIEVE THE SAME WAS TRUE FOR THE AREAS EAST OF TOWNSEND. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE FINES INCREASED FOR POACHING AND ALL PROPERTIES OF THE INDIVIDUALS FOUND GUILTY OF POACHING CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED TO THE PUBLIC. THESE PROPERTIES WOULD INCLUDE ANYTHING USED AT THE TIME OF POACHING -TRUCK-RIFLE ECT. PROCEEDS TO GO TO FISH & GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT NO HUNTING FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS.

THIS YEAR WAS UNUSUAL BECAUSE I WAS DRAWN FOR A SPECIAL BULL ELK PERMIT IN THE CMR DIST-622 AND DID NOT BOW HUNT MUCH BECAUSE I WANTED TO HUNT IN DIST.622. I WOULD NORMALLY HUNT ELK ^20 DAYS AND SPEND CONSIDERABLY MORE MONEY.

1) WHAT THIS STATE REALLY NEEDS IS MORE ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL. RAISE LICENSE FEES TO PAY FOR MORE WARDENS!

2) ALSO, METHODS OF "ESTIMATING" HARVEST FIGURES ARE FAR FROM SATISFACTORY.

3) REGS RE: PROOF OF SEX & IMMEDIATE TAGGING OF ANIMAL AT THE KILL SITE NEED REVISION. TAG SHOULD BE MARKED IMMEDIATELY BUT

ATTACHED TO CARCASS UPON REACHING VEHICLE OR CAMP. TAGS ARE TOO EASILY LOST WHILE PACKING/Dragging A CARCASS THROUGH BRUSH, ROCKS, ETC.

4. FEWER REGULATIONS.

I have to view this sort of survey with some suspicion. However, if it helps manage wildlife populations it's okay. I would oppose any restrictions to archery that are not based on wildlife populations. By having the freedom of choice we can manage our own hunting experience.

There is an opinion that seems to prevail among Game Departments across this country. They seem to feel that they must think up new and restrictive laws to improve hunting. This viewpoint is entirely in the area of archery but is equally wrong in other management considerations. Placing restrictions does not curb poaching. It only causes poachers to be more creative and hamstrings the tax paying sportsman. Please spend our money catching professional poachers and improving habitat.

Archery hunting does not significantly affect big game populations so give us more opportunity. Longer seasons will reduce bowhunter numbers.

Please stop this movement of introducing wolves in this state. Let sportsmen use our elk and deer, not wolves.

I strongly feel that any restrictions placed on archery seasons and hunters have no real value. Most bowhunters are just people who like to get in the woods more often than just rifle season to hunt. I feel if tighter restrictions were imposed it would just mean low hunter morale and no significant increase or decrease in game levels.

Dont' start adding more crapy rules than you already have!!

Don't complicate archery hunting with too many regulations and/or restrictions.

We do need to have a crossbow season for elk and deer.

Eliminate restriction (special permit) on north side of CMR Wildlife Refuge. This would reduce recent pressures to south side.

Alot of these questions tend to ask for the archers to put themselves in a box that would take all the fun out of archery hunting. Why do you feel the need to continually add restrictions? Archery hunting is a wonderful and challenging sport - don't ruin that for us!!

Also, you start off asking for this to be completed by telling us about the drawing. However. nowhere in this booklet do you

ask for a name, address, or phone.

Keep up the good work but don't take our rights away. Don't make this a rich man's sport.

As a native Montanan, I feel very strong about my hunting rights. Montana is a unique state with liberal hunting regulations and I feel it should be kept this way. This of course means more intensive game management which puts more pressure on the Fish and Game Dept. Working together we can accomplish this. I don't mind paying more for fees, I object to any more restrictions.

Maybe add an extra doe for archery only
No other rules added takes away enjoyment & freedoms

For sure, there are more bow hunters each year. Generry speaking, they give up after 2 weeks or so, so the most part of the season is better for a? of hunters. I do not think regulation on in-state hunters is a valid or promising approach.

Comment of D?8. d feel that any furthe regulations in they area (question a,b,c,d would be over regulatory & non esential all the time, not to mention apressive.
Pr-11-A.T.V. Inforcement should be applied to those using A.T.V.'s on the state line area, where use is all-ready illegal.

the fewer restrictions the better

I am totally against restricting any more regulations against bowhunters. We appear to be more subject to political pressures than other hunting groups due to our smaller numbers. If any restriction are made, it should be to out-of-staters. Thank you.

let's not regulate archery hunting to death - we already need a lawer to fish & rifle hunt in Montana!

Any further restricitons to - hunting by residents I believe to be not justified - Elk herds are larger than ever.
- Simplify rather than further restrict and complicate areas and rules.

Archery hunting is very primitive but fun. Less restrictions are needed.

I enjoy the freedoms of hunting in Montana. Please do not make hunting more restrictive. I am "on call" at the hospital every other week which takes up 1/2 of my hunting season. To make it more restrictive for hunters would only make it easier for the idle-rich and harder for the working man!

I am not a serious bow hunter due to lack of time. I am hoping this will change in the future and would like to be free of

excessive restrictions when that time comes.

I am totally against any further restrictions on bowhunters, and believe that if any changes are to be made, it should be for the benefit of the hunter, and not in an effort to cause him trouble, or restrict his enjoyment and time he can get from this sport.

Most of the points in Sec. II quest. 8 I opposed. Not only are these proposals highly restrictive, but obnoxious to the hunter who takes game to feed his family. I see that the attitude behind the proposals comes from the "worn out" philosophy that the govt. and agencies need to control people through regulations miles long. I am a conscientious man and honest about following existent regulations-created to protect properly, game number etc. But I do not need or want to need through your red tape and added restrictions just to take a big game animal for food. Understand, I am not interested in "trophies". What I am interested in is the freedom to behave in a reasonable manner under reasonable and common-sense laws. Lets not have this management department start creating more regulations to both keep themselves intellectually busy, and to put a greater squeeze on the normal man unreasonably-especially if it only comes from a bureaucratic mind-set to control people.

Please publish my comments.

Archery season definitely affect elk rifle season, 2 week cool off on better needed.

Lets not even regualte you have to be a lawyer for rifle season regs one taking fun out use common sense.

Dear Sirs:

I feel this survey has some questions that will harm the bowhunter no matter which way they are answered. I feel the fish and game is looking for ways to restrict bowhunters with permits etc. because of bias on the part of certain individuals in the Dept. Most bowhunters I know are dedicated sportsmen who have taken up bowhunting as a way of extending their hunting opportunity.

I feel myself and most bowhunters are true conservationists. If I or others felt we were truly hurting a species or age group within that species by bowhunting, we would be the first to limit ourselves in some way. No one can call himself a bowhunter or true sportsman unless he first has respect for his quarry.

I am from Lewistown so I am very familiar with the alledged problem with elk and bowhunters in the Breaks. Show me biological proof that bow hunters are disturbing the elk or having a harmful effect on an age class of the elk and I will be in favor of permits, but to restrict bowhunters, on federal land,

with no biological evidence of harm to the elk, is a great injustice to all hunters of this state.

I know there are many biologist, some who have told me personally that they do not like bowhunters or care if they have a season. I have listened to some commissioners who have told me that they do not care too much for bowhunters. Maybe it has always been this way but it seems very sad to me that bowhunting and bowhunting seasons are determined more by political bias than biological data.

I feel any restrictions such as drawing and if or hunting is bad. There are plenty of elk for everyone to hunt when and where they want. Even w/ increased hunting pressure we have more and better elk hunting. There may be a few areas w/ a lot of pressure but so what the people will change areas if it is overcrowded. We don't need a biologist or commissioner or director that doesn't like bowhunting to tell us what is right..

One of the fringe benefits of bow hunting is the ability to pass up shots at cow elk for a bigger bull. Hunting pressure w/ a rifle will drive elk away. Archery does not move them as much.

I would like to see,

- 1) Airplane bill to not let them hunt same day.
- 2) Continued open hunting, no restrictions such as: -with rifle or bow-Drawing for archery tag.
- 3) Need more emphasis on improvement of wildlife habitat.

The effect on game animals and the number of animals killed is very small from archery hunters. Considering the amount of money spent by archery hunters and the amount of personal pleasure derived by archery hunting we don't need more regulations designed to limit hunters. We also don't need the Dept. trying to get more money out of the hunters that now supply nearly all the money for game habitat, study, supervision and law enforcement.

In the two years I have bow hunted I have not gotten close enough to an elk to take a shot. However I have passed up easy shots at small bucks looking for the big one. I believe any restrictions added to bow hunting would not be in the best interest of Montana Bow hunters

Too many regulations.

I just hope my kids can enjoy the type of hunting I have had without too many more restriction.

I am convinced that the thing all hunter's positively do not need is more regulations. I hunt with rifle and bow for the pleasure of hunting and have been getting madder every year over

the confusing regs. The year of 1987 was the biggest mess I have seen.

To meny restriction not enough game

Dont go overboard on archery mgmt & regulations. If its too crowded I go someplace else if theres no game I go someplace else if its too crowded on Sat & Sun - hunt in week if there are too many regulations, it isn't fun anymore!

AS WITH ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THERE ARE TOOMANY RULES & REG'S THAT ONLY CREATE MORE REVENUE AND MORE HASSEL FOR THE AVERAGE CITIZEN THAT RESTRICT HIS OR HER FREEDOMS AND DO NOTHING TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION OR HAVE ANY CONCERN FOR THE WILDLIFE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE LESS GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN ALL AREAS OF HUNTING AND WITH MORE INTEREST IN MAKING THINGS BETTER NOT MORE COMPLICATED

I sometimes feel, especially since Ive read some of these questions, that their is way to much regulation in some aspects of hunting, keeping in mind that some is needed for wildlife population, we don't need many changes.

All I ask is you think hard about regulations and do not screw it up like Oregon & Washington there are a lot of very angry people mainly in Oregon regs are so tight there, there are a lot of people poching because of F&W regs. They are forcing honest people to do things they wouldn't normally do. I hope it doesn't come to that here.

Leave current regulations in affect. More and more regulation will restrict hunting to just the people with the time and money to go to any district they choose. I hunt in my home district (101) and I just wish you guy's would leave thing's alone for a change. Pretty soon all that will be legal is 7 by 7 Bull Elk with blue eyes and three legs.

Don't over-regulate

Try to keep hunting from having to many regulations. If this happens how are children ever going to enjoy hunting.

5. HABITAT - FOREST SERVICE LOGGING ISSUES, WINTER RANGES,
LIVESTOCK GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS, ETC.

I think the licenses are high enough. But Fish and Game should be making better habitat with the money that they are receiving.

I think that the Fish and Game should try and acquire more areas to public lands and maint these areas in a beneficial way that will improve herd development.

With hunter education for archery hunters maybe we could help alleviate some of the wound animals that are not be found know.

In my favorite hunting areas I am sure that excessive, unprofitable, tax costing, land destroying logging isdestroying the area.

(Deer hunting and elk hunting) - I feel walk in areas should be established in most areas with a special provision for the handicapped. At the same time more permits could be issued in a particular area.

Concerning increased fees - I am for providing the fees (at least a significant portion) can be used to develop habitat and leasing land to hunt on.

Pertaining to question 8E page 3, I think that it is important that we buy more habitat. Personally I would not mind paying \$25 or more for licenses if I knew the extra money was for buying habitat. I would also like to see special archery seasons for sheep, goats, and moose. PS, pertaining to question 7 improvement F, it is very important to pursue this matter to the fullest.

I enjoy the archery season just as it is. Don't screw with it and set up a bunch of restrictions and regulations. The one exception to this is that I wouldn't mind an increase in the price of the archery stamp, as long as these monies would be used solely to improve habitat.

I think the big bull elk should be distributed more evenly through the state.

I first archery hunting for elk and deer was in 1987 for only a few days. My reason for hunting is that it gives me an excuse to be in the mountain. I'm not confident enough with a bow yet to take a shot at something. Our primary meat source is wild game. Increased habitat is the main management action I support. I would gladly pay \$20.00 or more for a license if most of the money went for increased habitat.

I will passup shots at cows and spikes if I believe I still have a reasonable chance at a bull (1st day of 2 day hunt, begining of season, etc). I am not, however, above shooting a cow or a spike. It is a nice option to have.

It is my opinion that if a hunter is not willing to respond to a Fish and Game survey without being bribed with a self addressed stamped envelope and a prize or drawing, he is not much of a sportsman nor is his opinion worth much. Perhaps prize money would be better spent on habitat.

Cross bows would be disasterous and you know it. Elk habitat is the most important issue facing our herds. It's now or never - lets buy it while we can.

I think the state FW & P should support the sportsmen in keeping the USFS from logging prime elk range i.e., Treasure MT sale. This area is prime elk habitat with a stable population.

Because of the continual increase in pressure I would like to see more walkin and wilderness areas. Would also like to see more areas managed like the CMR.

I would like to see more winter range created in NW Montana so the country could support more elk. Would like to see more elk transplanted in certain drainages establishing more elk herds. Do not want to see gun hunters being able to hunt during bugling season outside of wilderness areas (Bob).

I'd like to see larger game numbers. I'd be willing to give up hunting for 2 years if it meant an increase. I think we have plenty of wilderness in this part of the state. I'm not rich so can't afford lots of horses to get into wilderness. Heavy logging is SW Montana Gallatin Forest is taking its toll on game. I never see much game in logged areas. I'd rather see oil fields. One does not have to strip sections to get to oil. Too many roads are being shot down in the Beaverhead NF. I'm speaking of the Gravelly area.

My feeling on elk hunting in Montana reflect one of continued maximum hunting opportunity. When you lose opportunity, so goes sportsmen and revenue. With proper habitat management, and considering that elk populations have increased in the state, this opportunity should be maintained. Also, with limited out of state hunters and a relatively stable number of resident hunters, I fail to see the reason to consider more restrictive regulations on the sportsmen. Habitat management is the key, however it is much more difficult to regulate and manage than the sportsman. I hope you do not intend to follow the trends occurring in more populated western states.

It would appear that more and more ranches are grazing (possibly overgrazing) national forest lands leaving their own lands ungrazed to induce elk to move onto posted lands. While I'll defend anyone's right to post and control access to private land, conspiring to influence game movement for personal gain must be addressed and prevented. Those with grazing leases on public land should also have the responsibility to allow access to those same public lands by the general public.

Expansion of area 260 would take pressure off landowners, and at the same time reduce congestion in the river bottom. We have a valley full of whitetail habitat and are using a very small portion.

All big game licenses should be sold for higher prices and increased revenue should be used for improving and acquiring habitat. Considering everything - I would consider \$50 to \$100 reasonable for elk licenses. (Many hunters spend more than that for guns or beer)

The main problem I can see is the overgrazing of natural habitat (Nat'l Forests) by livestock. If I could change one thing I would set aside a considerable amount of Forests for wildlife - no grazing.

The people who hunt must put their foot down and stop the logging. This is wiping out the Elk, Deer, Bear and other wild life cover in the future. There will not be any game or game cover left. And the Elk foundation is the worst of all the people.

The (Montana Bow Hunters) organization is a Recurve Bow Organization although they probably help all Bow hunters, they should be watched as a group that will want to get rid of the compound bows.

How can you improve habitat?

Each year the terrain changes at an alarming pace. Places that I hunt from year to year are being logged to the ground. I am honest when I say that I cannot recognize areas that I hunted in 1975 & 1976 and next year the area that I hunt this year will be gone. In their place will be gates that say stay out so the animals can survive. I ask on what?

I think by reducing the number of beef cows elk population will increase.

I believe the forest service and Montana F&G have turned one of our favorite and most rewarding activities in to a rich man's sport. I believe the money spent on gates and their haphazard game management should be reexamined. I also think that the logging in N. West Montana should be cut back. I also feel the

logging companies should be required to do a better clean-up. I'm sick and tired of seeing my beautiful state destroyed by money-hungry fools!

I just want the opportunity to be in the woods during hunting season. I think the quality of the elk herd will increase if they restrict the harvest of spikes which would increase branch antlered bulls. I am not opposed to increasing license fee for improved wildlife habitat for purchasing winter range as long as you do not single out archery and increase all license.

My main concern for elk is the lack of winter range. N.W. Montana can support many more elk than it has, if only more h? were allowed. Most of the other problems with the elk would be solved if we only had more winter range - the elk could then take care of themselves, Regulations could then be left alone for the most part.

Fish & Game needs to concentrate on purchasing (not leasing) winter ranges to increase the herd and on access to public lands (state and federal) also need to address growing outfitters business which is actually putting a price on wildlife and loss to wildlife and average residence.

I feel that the bowhunting conditions at the present moment are fine. I would like to see more funds put into wildlife habitat.

I think sportsmen in general need to take a close look at Forest Service management as to logging etc. Logging is negatively affecting elk herds in my favorite hunting areas which in part has to do with decline of large bulls in "my" areas.

I had a area that I was just starting to get into Elk and the next year went back and every Ridge I used to walk the was'nt a tree on it. thanks to the loggers.

The Fish & Game has resources and the obligation to buy & improve hunting habitat without raising fees to the natives. Hunting must be kept affordable for all Montanans. Its one of the few things we have thats not for sale. I would like to se a decrease in resident fees.

In recent years I have seen less bulls and large bucks this year because of logging done in my favorite area, which opened it to more hunters I would like to see less logging and more conservation done. I know logging is a good source of money in Montana but I would be willing to pay an increase in license fees.

I know rancker's need land! But they over graze the forsts all spring summer & fall walk along boundry line grass knew high on privet land! No grass on waste land you can't raise cow's

without feed! So what about the wildlife! Give them a chance!
Cut back on cow's now start bird hunting 2 weeks later so
outfitter's can't herd elk with shotguns!
I love the mountain's and the land, and wildlife! So watch them
_____! Outfitters and the cow's before it's too late!!

I have hunted both the C.M Russell area and the Russian Flat
area. I prefer to hunt the mountains. In Sept. 87 I hunted the
Smith Creek area. I have hunted there for the past five years
and always seen Elk, Cows & Bulls. There had been extensive
Logging there and in three days of let work I did not see any
elk. I believe an important holding area was destroyed.

I stress the need for more prime habitat by the use of more
strict rules against use of motorized vehicles in the back
country.
A.T.V.'s are the worst menace for hunting.

in question #8-E what is done with the P&B fund for wild life
Purchasing & improving habitat.

The biggest concerns that face me as a bowhunter are inexperience
in the field, shooting skills, communicating,(bugling) and
exploytation of natural resources. All of these can be extremely
damaging to the future of Elk & thier habitat as well as the
archer.

I think you should raise the license to 20.00 and take the extra
and use for wildlife habitat and I would personally like to see
more roads closed and the fine for being caught behind a gate
much higher.

The 2 most important issues facing the hunters are, Habitat and
Access to that habitat. This is where we are really losing
ground every year. I don't mind spending more time and money to
help in this direction. I also would like to see more areas
managed for trophy bulls & (bucks) I realize this is very
difficult with the increased # of hunters in the field.

I wish there were bigger Elk herds in my home district. After
the seasons opened I saw no elk. But then I'm a rookie at this
game. Theres always next year. I wish there was less clear cut
logging taking place - it has to have a drastic effect on Elk
security and thus Elk herd size.

Much of the land is being posted and for no good reason except a
ego trip for sone - I believe if a rancher post his land for no
good reason, public land should be closed to his grazing - I
found a lot a land is posted for out of state pay to hunt hunters
-

Would ? Charging say a extra couple of dollars per license, and
putting a coupon on each license to be given to the rancher if an

animal is taken from his land, or at end of year just give to the rancher or just send in to State Agency to use toward animal habitat.

I think the destruction of the forest by loggers in the Big Hole area is a crime. And to many road closures have forced hunters to congest the areas that the roads are not closed in, thus making those areas poor quality hunting areas.

The movement of cattle out of the mountains in the fall completely disrupts the elk in the area. Once the cattle have been moved out of the area the elk leave, and don't return till after bow season is over.

I would like to see less timber cutting in the areas I hunt. 418-420 448. but besides that I love my times in the timber and pleasure of hunting even if I don't get any game.

The critical issue for archers as well as riflemen is the preservation and continued cultivation of winter range. More monies should be allocated to support habitat improvement. 4x4 and ATV accessibility to summer range, along with more new road construction by the USFS also threatens the future security of out herds. I would like to see more management practices which favor the large, mature bull population.

Archery elk hunting is (can be) the epitome of the wilderness hunting experience, free of the stress associated by human pressure. I always hear shots during the rifle season; I seldom even see hunters in the field during the archery season.

Fish and Game Dept. should acquire as much winter range as possible to insure good elk numbers in the future. More enforcement of Fish & Game laws.

to much farmer control on good ranges. The old system before the stupid red paint rule gave more access. To much responsibility and & control on the wardens and FW&B.
- check station should not be mandatory
- fines at them could be illegal.

I really don't think anything needs to be changes, except may the way F.W.P. is spending it's money. Seems like the money spent on this survey could have been used in a much better fashion. Like improving the wildlife habitat rather than asking people if that what they want.

You did not mention logging of my elk area 319. This is a major problem here - as they are at this moment starting a new cut this week. The archery season is fine the way it is in Southwest Montana - just don't keep the continueing closing of roads year after year. We need access to our back areas.

I would like to see more emphasis on turkeys, more archery only areas. increased fees to go to game management. Reduce cattle, sheep grazing.

I support the "Big Open" wildlife range concept.

I would like to see the F&W. work to retain elk habitat on public ground. To work with the forest service to enforce cattle grazing allotments to their permit numbers (many areas are over grazed in my hunting areas) and reduce those numbers if necessary. Thank you

6) I feel that bowhunting has had very little affect on the fact that there are few Branch-antlered bulls in my areas, but rather, the latter stages of rifle season. Snow seems to dictate elk survival (to hunters) on years of heavy snows the bulls get thinned to almost nil. Years like 1987 promise lots of bulls for 88. I would like to see statewide closure on spikes the last 2 or 3 weeks of Rifle season. I feel this would provide more than ample "rack" bulls. This would also allow the "smarter" elk (and probably the best breeding stock) to survive. Also the would allow all hunters equal opportunity, rather than the "Luck of the draw" (permits).

7) I feel this varies with the amount of mature bulls (comments above) 1988 should be good.

I very much enjoy archery hunting & hope to all my days. The "wilderness" in hunting is what it's all about. The more we can do to preserve increase habitat the more we can preserve & increase our own quality of life. Establish (human) foot trail only areas or is everything going to be destined to the lame fat & weak!

It is senseless to purchase and maintain elk habitat nature takes care very well the grounds the elk frequent. To much money would be wasted this way that could be used else where in the management of game. To purchase right of way through private property would only increase the number of criminal incidents to property of the land owners by slob hunters who have no respect for other people. If we can make it miserable for the slob hunter and enforce the laws we have and give public attention to the good sportsmen and his behavior perhaps landowner and sportsmans relations can be brought to a cooperative position making access and maintainance easy for people & game. Use less politics - praise the good, thun the slob. Management of the game animals from my view is very good.

I would like to see more time and money spent to upgrade elk range land. This would increase animal size and herd volumes. Also would increase antler size by supplying needed vitamins and minerals at critical times.

We need Big Game winter range - Quite building houses on the west face of Columbia Mt.

There is one thing I am greatly upset with. I hunt area 341 more than any other area, the logging done in this area is the most damaging act I have seen in 13 years of hunting. I can see clear-cutting in some wilderness, but when something like this is done, someone screwed-up. They cut whole valleys and hillsides completely bare of trees. I watched 11 head of elk walk 30 feet in front of me through timber 7 years ago on the head of Beef straight creek in area 341. Now there isn't a tree standing on the same hill.

The hunting there has went down hill very badly in the last 5 years the area will never be the same, Actions like this should be carefully thought through before contracts are signed.

Domestic Cattle should not be allowed on CMR and BLM land to compete with the wildlife.

8/e I would be willing to pay more for a license (conservation tag) If the proceeds were to go for winter habitat.

1) You need to spend more funds on purchasing winter range and cut other programs & expenditures.

2) If a ranch does not allow access to hunters during the regular season - the cow elk damage hunts should not be permitted on those ranches.

Yes, the cattle seem to be taking over the elk's habitat.

I like the idea of license money going toward habitat. As a college student, \$20 for an archery stamp is hard to come up with and yet the reasoning behind #8d. makes sense. I feel that the weather was a contributing factor to my lack of success at archery hunting this last season. Also there just were not the elk in my area this year as compared to the previous two years.

I find to many domestic livestock usining Gov. land the year around. There are Laws against this but not enforced. I fought in Korea for these Laws but still they are not enforced. I feel the Gov. is slacking to please a few for my tax dollars.

Please keep the livestock out of the forrest. you are over grazing the grass! This effects my hunting area! The only free hunting that can be found! Our forrest lands.

I would like to see some Land bought over in the east for Elk habitat.

the herds could be increased in the Breaks area's if there wasn't so much concern for cattle on public land. sportsmen are the ones paying the F.W.P. bill and salaries.

While I enjoy many forms of hunting. The best part of any hunt is just being out in the wilderness.

Therefore I would like to see more wilderness and less roads, more trees and less clearcuts, and more trails that are free of tire tracks and engine noises. Thank You.

It always comes down to this: Intellegent movement of game habitat. Without good habitat - you have nothing. Evything else is second to this: for without it, you will b? dictates as too what type of seasons you will have. Archery or rifle:

cows in Forest have present me problems the last two years. Had to locate new hunting area because of late cattle removal in areas 448 and 454

Stop the logging its going over board. I recently wrote the Elk foundation and their response was we don't have any say about logging well if they don't who does?

There are too many restrictions now.

There are plenty of elk.

There are too many cattle on the National Forest

I've been growling since hunting season, Because I cant believe the change thats taking place in Montana.

No matter what Everyone Tells me about how logging makes great Feed For animals, Ive seen the Damage to an Area After they cut, clearcut, & Butcher a mountain or an area like they do in Montana. It Brings more People, puts more pressure on the animals & destroys the solatude a man goes to Find in the mountains.

Ive watched my one area of which was plentiful of Elk, moose Deer & Bear Destroyed by the logging.

This year I went to hear the Elk Bugle instead I heard dirt Bikes & chain saws. It litterally tore me & my family up. Ive hunted their For 8 Years, I won't go Back again. But talking To Friends its happening Everywhere. Its sad we have to swap. Progress for something thats been hear longer then time it self.

I would like to see all the Domestic Animals be taken out of Districts 413 and 454. They are over grazing all the open parcks and clear cuts. Which are sort of the elk winter range.

If the forest service's forest plans go on habitat will be dystroyed to a point of despair B.N. Lands should be bought before they are logged out. More \$ should be spent on securing & improving habitat for all animals then building roads up every drainage as the Forest Circus Plans. Hunting & Recreation are more important then playing the tune of giant logging, oil & gas, mining interest. If people would be more sparing in there abuse of the natural world maybe we will survive into the year 2000. probably not thou. Gee i guess i'm late for the drawing! Have a good Day

I think more \$ should be put forward for Research & also more

land turned into wilderness areas.

Thank about getting rid of cattle in National Forest

I believe bowhunters are more successful due to more knowledge books, tapes, seminars, bugles and cow talk, but I think the real problem lies with the loss of habitat and the continuing timber sales, road access and general mismanagement of our forest lands.

I feel by far the most important aspect of managing Mt. game is preservation of habitat for elk, bear and moose. The USFS acknowledges the "Bob" and other areas are overimpacted. If our largest wilderness is overused and threatened, then the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat must be questionable statewide.

The bottom line is get rid of our congressmen who don't even want to protect 1 million acres of 6 million acres of remaining wilderness!! Idiots.

I feel areas 201 202 203 123 122 can support lots more elk than is currently there. There is an over abundance of elk feed. Some of those elk from Yellowstone should be transplanted to these districts. Maybe even a few buffalo.

The worst problem in the Groveleys and Tobacco roots where I usually hunt is the reduction of canopy cover and roads. Your archery hunting program is the best hunting program, you have.

Access to some forest service land should be increased such as in the crazy mountains. Acquisition of winter range should be a priority. The elk herds in my area could stand to increase quite a bit (Flathead) I would not be opposed to a bowhunter education program.

(1) I am strongly opposed to the use of cross bows by the general public during archery season. However, I would like to see cross bow use allowed for the handicapped during archery season.
(2) It concerns me that the U.S. Forest Service allows so much massive clear-cutting in prime elk areas. It would be great if the USFS would try and work more closely with the Wildlife and Parks Dept. of MT before decisions are made concerning which area and how many acres of "lumber" are to be harvested.

We must protect our wildlife habitat even at the cost of putting corporate financial gains behind wildlife gains.

I appreciate all concerns with wildlife conservation and distribution and I am for all conservation and habitat laws.

A drastic limit in open range grazing. Wildlife are being forced to compete for food and water with a much larger population of domestic stock. In the end the wildlife are the loser. Ranchers

graze thier stock on open range during summer months, forcing wildlife elsewhere or onto private land which is locked uptight during hunting season. P.S. An excellent example is district 283-Nine mile prairie, rancher K.C. Moore.

Maybe elk will have more grass from the clearcuts. But I know they need protective cover. They can't stand mile after mile of clear cuts. I guess time will tell.

I answered question #13 yes although the most important thing all the small is to gain public access to public land's "all".

Also public lands lend to Grazing rights is over done and the money is not spent in habitat for the wildlife it takes away from.

I think they are clear cutting too much timber in Lincoln county and destroying too much habitat and I don't know where the elk and deer are going to hide. Very bad here. Something should be done for the animals or their going to migrate out of Montana and into Canada. (Then what). A lot of them go to Idaho State know.

P.S. How about all these 3 wheeler and 4 wheeler, that come into a area, from private land and the roads are closed and we have to walk 4 or 3 miles then you find out they already have been there and the game is gone, and motorcycles two, 4x4 two. I don't mind walking into an area but I think they ought to put the law down on this and fine them enough to see that they don't do it again.

I believe that the grazing on BLM and Forest Service is too heavy the leases on said land should be determined by the available forage not just head per acre. Or take the land out of lease and put the cost into the price for the hunting licenses. I would pay 50% more for that system.

I think hunting in Montana is basically well managed but would like to see more money going toward habitat improvement.

I've lived in Montana, all of my life, and I still feel we the sportsman don't get a fair shake. When the number of elk is down in a certain ecosystem you tend to limit the sportsman, not the rape of the land. Poor logging practices are still present in much of Montana; and yet you the Dept. do nothing to stop this. Roading is also a eye sore you can drive anywhere you want in the state. Cattle are the largest problem, the dept. along with the forest service let far too many cow/calf pairs on to state land to graze then you have hardship hunts after season PLEASE for once limit someone else not the sportsman. A bow or rifle season is not the answer you can manage the big game of Montana a lot better if you just do something constructive. It's there for all of us, close some roads, leave some trees, count some cattle for once

give us a chance don't limit us again. The two seasons are not the answer look at what you already know. Don't study it for five years do something now for us. Don't screw up hunting. Don't confuse us anymore. PLEASE for once help the sportsman.

Sismic activity in Southern Montana is pushing game out of their normal habitat. Stricter guidelines are needed. (IE. Helicopters, noise and litter).

We do not like the over grazing of our hunting area it is public land and should be for the wild animals and not cows and sheep. To overgraze. very poor management even if it were private land area (413) ie central park Lost stove deer park Belt Park. I think you should do something about hsi problem. I will show you if you would like me too.

Please listen to the hunters everyone knows the big bulls are gone, unless we manage them better. Logging, power line roads have taken a big toll on elk. this and other material I've submitted probably end up in a paper shredder

The forest service is claiming False facts for habitat improvement, destroying, much, much, summer elk habitat by roads & clearcuts on North slope wet benches & hills, not leaving enough crown cover or thermal cover (summer & winter) in drainage heads & saddles and not considering the compound effects of what they're doing. Too many cattle in some areas. ignoring wildlife biologists recommendations. Not using public input in their planning.

Money for the purchase of, or improvement of wildlife habitat should be derived from landowners who run cattle on Public lands. Raising grazing fees to a realistic sum.

It should be illegal for a landowner to charge an access fee for the purpose of hunting or fishing. The wildlife are not his to sell. By charging access he is doing just that.

I hope this survey is not manipulative to create additional revenue for state agencies.

The greatest damage to wildlife population & distribution in district 130 is the clearcut logging operations this I feel could be improved by a better cleanup of areas involved. or selective cutting only.

The Swan Valley is a very special area in Montana as are many others.

There is nothing more destructive to a 300 year old ecosystem than a logging operation which can destroy hundred of acres in a matter of weeks. None of us will ever see these areas in their natural state again. What an empty feeling.

Any hunting in this area is going to hell! At the present logging practices in 5yrs hunting will be another "remember when"

- Too many road access to hunting areas Too much forest destruction & indiscriminate logging.

Your dept. needs to apply pressure to the forest/service to insure better clean up of clear cuts.

The area I normally hunt in 110 was logged off in the summer of 87, causing no natural habitat around the area of Rut for elk.

I feel non-resident licenses should be limited more. I would like to see less development in wild or wilderness areas, including mining or geological exploration.

In other words, more quality hunting areas and larger herds (more animals)

ESTABLISH MORE/ OR PROTECT ELK HABITAT FROM CANTINUED DESTRUCTIVE LOGGING PRACTICES.

I feel that habitat aquisition and quality maintainence is most important to keeping healthy game herds. I'm in favor of raising license fees to achieve this, and to reduce the number of non-serious archers. I also feel the need for archery education (mandatory for beginners), especially with greatly increasing numbers of archers. I would like to see more branch-antlered elk only restrictions applied in areas where this management strategy would increase the number of larger bull elk.

I would be strongly in favor of taking the last week of archery season in October, and placing it at the end of rifle season, (post season), if the proposal of adding two additional post-season weeks was unpopular with surveyed archers or Fish, Wildlife and Parks management objectives.

I think we need as much winter range as can be preserved for elk only.

On Nat. Forest land noprivate grazing leases should be let if deer or elk are in any way effected by the loss of forage.

Montana's hunting is great largely because of superior management, and I feel that an urgent priority to continue this quality of hunting is to be purchasing as much winter range as possible whenever (everytime) it is available. The herds (especially elk) are no bigger or better than what their winter range allows.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Although I prefer rifle hunting, I'll never give up archery. I've been at it since I was 7. I moved to Montana so I could spend more time out doors in some of the finest habitat in the world. Keep up the good work & buy more winter range & help fight deficit timber sales in defacto backcountry!

to much logging going on during Bow season

As we all know, habitat is truly the key to maintaining quality hunting in Montana. Sure there will probably be a need to increase branched antler regulations as pressure increases, but if we have the habitat we can produce the animals. This must be the department's priority.

I would support Two \$ increase if the money went for winter buy more of it while there is still some good range left.

The problem I have is access to forest service land. I think that landowners should have to permit access to forest service land especially if they pasture their cattle on forest service ground. I.E. area 212.

To maintain our quality hunting in Montana habitat improvement and required bow hunter education for all hunters must be our top priorities.

The keys to maintaining quality Elk archery hunting and, for that matter the other species is to provide quality service habitat. Managing access and reducing resource management activities that are detrimental to wildlife habitats are keys to maintaining and improving Montana's big game resource.

6. OVERALL HUNTER PRESSURE, CROWDS, ETC.

I like to Bow hunt around places where Not many other bow hunters go so I wouldn't want to make it so that you could only hunt one area because I hunt 3 or for And I think Bowhunters should beaware that its Bowhunting theyre doing and not drinking Beer and all kinds of noise lessening my chance on getting a trophy buck.

I have enjoyed hunting for Deer & Elk with Bow & Arrow. I find it a very challenging way to hunt. I would like to hunt antelope in this manner but have not tried it yet. I have heard some negative comments from persons who have recieved special permits to hunt elk in District 401 in regard to Bow hunters making the Elk harder to find and hunt because of pressure from Bow hunters before the rifle season starts.

Should lengthen season and expand areas beyond river botton. To much of this land is private and owners generally will not permit access. This forces hunters to saturate the few areas that are accessable. To many hunters in one area is no good.

I did shoot both a white tail doe & buck with my bow during rifle season.

I personaly like the idea of using my first choise for an elk permitt in the C.M.R. Game Range. It cuts down on hunting pressure.

Even though I sometime use the legal limit in archery technology I believe that more simple equipment should be mandatory. The easier-to use equipment has created more hunting pressure.

Consideration should be given to the fact that archers using the restricted districts in CMR (631,632) are much more knowledgable than in the past and pressure is more concentrated on prime holding areas for elk. I think adding 50 more hunters to this area is a mistake. (631).

This was my first year archery hunting. I enjoyed it although failed to bag anything. I will try again next year. If the number of archery hunters becomes excessive, then maybe we should do some controlling.

With the advent of Lease hunting, more pressure will be put on Federal & state land to hunt. Rather then limit hunting opportunities we need to somehow open more of the lease land. Possibly by reducing non-Resident hunters. Most of the hunting pressure that I experience is non-resident. Sure they bring money to this state. But they don't pay the taxes the people that live here do!

Would be nice to be able to bow hunt elk in the area where I live. Since its now a drawing district don't always get a license while out of staters take permits. Its one reason I live here, but recently its become to crowded and limited in hunting area to enjoy hunting.

Please look into 310 permit holders for Moose & ask about Bow hunters in the area they hunted. One behind every bush, it took 10 yrs to get a moose permit & was expensive to hunt them, \$1500+, yet Bow hunters dominated area with little regard to other hunters. My permit is still in my wallet. I guess Canada looks better, and better. They seem to like American Dollars. I hunt with Bow & Rifle. No predjuice. I would only like a fair chance to fulfill that once in a lifetime chance in that one week that I have to really hunt.

Pressure during Archery Season is increasing each year. Bow and Rifle hunting for spikes should be closed.

Once again the number of archery hunters has to be limited - I propose that the F.W.P. take a good long hard look at either hunting with bow or hunting with a gun but not both--- This would limit the non serious archery hunter.

I am very glad to see this question aire. I think it is over Due, Please try and do something about hunter density in Bow season. There are way to many poeple out there for a quality hunt. Please really look into an Either Or Season Thank you

1) If this had been a normal weather archery elk season, I would have hunted for elk much more. I've hunted 15 to 20 days each of the last 2 years prior to this one.

2) I think it is important to restrict the number of archers (elk hunting only) in Montana. Too many uncommitted archers.

Should have party permits on permit areas. And allowed to hunt only one hunting district with a bow to illiminate pressure & safety for the hunter.

I would like to see better quality in the hills. I am also tired of hunting with 20 other people in the same area I hunt. If the only way to reduce hunter competition is by a permit drawing system, so be it.

If the number of archery hunters increases like it has the last 5 to 10 years something is going to have to be done to put a limit on the number of hunters in each area.

I prefer bowhunting because it is much more challenging and the lack of hunter congestion. I gun hunted only in 1986 and the number of hunters was I encountered was rediculous. Almost to the point of being dangerous. The primary problem was hunters

floating the Yellowstone river and trespassing on private property. I would like to see a late Archery season and a drawing for Mule deer Doe in area 701.

Archery season in Mt. is the most favorable when compared to surrounding elk states. Restrictions should be considered when numbers of hunters gets too large such as in CMR Breaks areas

In District 622 the hunting pressure Increased due to hunters getting licenses on their 2nd & 3rd choices even tho Fish & Game Regulations said they couldn't

Hunting for people who do not like crowds is still available, and always will be. The average hunter doesn't venture more than 300 yards off the road-and there are a lot of mountains to hunt that are roadless. Hopefully we will 'not' have to pick between archery or rifle in order to be able to hunt.

I have pretty much quit archery hunting due to the hunting pressure and the diminishing number of elk in the South Fork. (Area 140) We are seeing very little sign and almost no elk. In general season (9 days steady hunting) in an area that used to support 2 fair herds we saw sign of 3 elk and only sign of 1 bull rubbing during the rut. The area has a fair size winter range and 6 years ago was heavily browsed-we now see 3 years undisturbed growth on the browse.

I feel the small number of calf in the cow herds we have observed is directly linked to the heavy pressure on the mature bulls during archery season. I will not shoot unless I have what I feel is a perfect shot.

Definitely a diminishing elk population in Area 140.-Tremendous hunting pressure during Archery and general season- I strongly suggest hunters choosing archery or rifle and only hunting that season. Not both. Also shorten archery season to provide at least 2 weeks of undisturbed rut.

There are getting to be more and more bow hunters. It is also harder finding real remote areas where there are less hunters. I'm getting tired of getting run out of my favorite hunting areas by out of state and out of county hunters and I've been hunting this area for 15 years.

Too much hunting pressure in the Bitterroot Valley. Too many non-resident hunters-No more game!!!

I work for a ranch and we get 0 days off in regular season, I do think something should be done with all the pressure I've seen the last two yrs. by resident and non resident alike. I would really hate to see bow season get loused up. My son is in the 1st grade and he loves to go now, where I'd be half scared to

take him rifle hunting cause of the people!

In my area 5 years ago thair was 3 outfitter now thair is 27 thats two many-5 years in spring bear hunting my wife and I counted 93 bear (killed one) 1987 I seen only one same amount of firme (two much pressure)

I love to hunt. I spend a great deal of time and money on the sport I love. I have had many guided hunts in Alaska and Canada for sheep, caribou, moose, and grizzly. But I live in Montana to hunt elk! The two most important things to me are, 1. There is a lot of elk in Montana, and good trophy potential. 2. I like to hunt with both bow and rifle. I prefer to hunt with a rifle, but I love to bugle elk, it is a great challenge.

There are two things that bother me about archery elk hunting in Montana now.

1. There is begining to be way to many archery in the field at one time. I would support measure to reduce those numbers by 1. Increase license fees, or 2. allow hunting only for branch antlered bulls, or 3. instead of 16 week season, have 23-week seasons and make archers choose early or late, or 4. go to a drawing in some or all areas for archery hunting.

2, The other thing that bothers me is I feel there is till to much access by vehicles. Especially during archeyr season. Motorcycles and ATV's rumbling along trails make it very hard to bugle elk.

The reason I began archery hunting is because 1) rifle season became too easy for all species 2) I have listened for the last time to the sound of a bullet zinging over my head due to overcrowding of areas during rifle season.

The only time there is a pressure problem is during the first week, the same as in the rifle season. That is natural. The rest of the season there is no problem at all. Even during the first week, the riverbottoms are the only area that receive a lot of pressure. You can go out into the Breaks, hunt all day, and you'll see very few people.

The one suggestion that I ahve is to do away with the permit system wherever it may be in effect. At this point there just isn't a need for it. The only reason it was put into effect on the north side fo the river was to satisfy the locals. By doing this the pressure was increased on the south side. Do away with it and the pressure will balance out!!!

I could not beleive how many "extra" bodies I saw in area 631 lots a pressure and few permits. I was disheartanad and probably never will go back to my "dream" hunt

1. There are too many novices archery hunting today 2. I feel a compound bow should be required. 3. The number of hunters needs to be reduced or limited-both archery and rifle. 4. There is too much access-you cannot get away from people anymore-neither can the game.

Lest wildlife and more hunter seems to becomming a problem.

I feel that archery hunting in Montana has greatly increased putting a damper on many favorite areas. As for the game increase that would be greatly appreciated do to the fact of the population increase of archery hunters.

WAY TOO MANY RIFLE HUNTERS ALLOWED IN MONTANA

Some bowhunting restrictions could be placed on Dists. in the Ft. Peck Res. area. Human activity during archery season in that area is overwhelming during favorable season. Manage the game for the residents as aposed to non res. game pop. is one of the few reasons for people to stay in the state. Lord knows its not the job market! and; so it should be.

I quit rifle hunting for elk because of too many hunters. I'm also concerned about the increasing amount of roads in elk habitat. Maintain quality hunting for trophy bulls and quality habitat with few roads. I'd prefer quality over quantity-make elk hunters choose bow or rifle. Also reduce number of outfitters to a reasonable level.

7. THE QUALITY OF MONTANA'S WILDLIFE RESOURCE.

I think the quality of Archery hunting in Montana is excellent, and we are very fortunate to have such a well managed game herd. The D.F.W.P. is on top of everything and I don't mind paying the license fee because of that.

Our archery season in District 622 was a great success this year in my opinion. Hunting pressure was very minimal throughout the season which provided many hours of quality stalking and stand-hunting. These questionnaires are invaluable because the hunters in the field usually know our most important needs as far as control, changes, additions etc. in the rules & regulations - Hopefully, the people, Commission, and others involved will work closely together, in order to maintain & provide outstanding quantity & quality of our Hunting seasons in our great state of Montana -

I think, that even though this is an archer's survey, the Idea of compromise between both Archers and general hunters should have been considered and shown through the questions. The elk season should be shortened, since more animals are taken by General hunters Both Archery and General should be shortened by a week. All hunters A or G should sacrifice together for an increase in Quality Animals.

Hunting, whether with a Bow or a rifle is such a precious asset to the Hunters of Montana That any efforts to improve it in any way, we must do so that it can be enjoyed by everyone rich & poor. Private Hunting Preserves should not be allowed.

I've lived in Montana 3 yrs., since moving from Utah, Montana has some of the finest hunting I've ever experienced, the Rifle Hunt has by far proven to be the best hunting so far. But I enjoy Bow Hunting very much, thanx Montana

The one thing I will really miss about Montana, is the hunting and the wide outdoors.

I really enjoy Bow Hunting and I hope this will help other hunters in Montana. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I feel that any changes made should favor wildlife first and the hunter second.

I would like to see all types of hunting taken care of, Bow and Gun so my two boys ages 6-2 can have as much fun and enjoyment as I have over the years. Hunt deer one day, Elk the next, so fishing the next, (THAT'S Montana)

I enjoy Bowhunting and I hope Montana can keep a Quality Archery season.

My concern of elk hunting center around certain specific areas. I have bugled up hunters in Missoula Area (Black foot River). I cut short a hunt in Missouri Breaks due to obvious hunter pressure - in the Breaks, hunters, even archery hunters, really move elk around especially on weekends & early in the season. Something needs to be done such as drawing permits for those types of areas. Other areas such as N.Fk of Flathead, Libby area do not seem to have pressure problems.

I live in Montana for the variety of hunting available to me. Often I see a lot of game animals. I bow hunt deer for meat in area 260. I do not bow hunt elk much. I hunt often during the general season. I cat hunt with hounds when I can.

Montana is a beautiful state. I am a native Montetaman and I think that even the people who move into this state to live & work should have to wait two years before they can hunt. These are my animals and I will do anything (even give up hunting) to protect them. Montana has a very good hunting season, with a lot of good bulls. Not being a land owner I would like to see the purchase of more land for hunter like myself that do not own horses or all terrin vehicles have the oportunity to walk in hunting.

Thanks for the chance to fill out this survey. I think Montana is a great state for outdoor activities especially hunting, both Bow and Rifle. In the last five years I hunted, South Valley after drawing a permit. and have enjoyed and been very satisfied with the number of Elk that I've seen and all the beauty of the whole country. I like both the pre hunts & post hunts. Thanks to all who have done so much, to make it so great. The hunting in Montana is excellent, I think, but there are too many out of staters.

Bow hunting is Montana is an exciting and rewarding experience and it's quality should be maintained. I find this survey encouraging and am looking forward to hearing about its outcome. I think Montana has a good archery set up. Timely seasons, good elk populations, good deer population, and a variety of hunting environments.

This survey is a good idea for archery hunting. I hope to see more in the future. To help archery hunting and big game animals in Montana. Montana is a wonderful state and your hunting and fishing are the reasons I moved here. I grew up in Wyo., Colo., and Utah and I hope you keep your out of state licences to a limited number which from what I have seen in other states will help keep your state the hunting paradise that it is. I am also strongly oppossed to the use of a crossbow for hunting.

I enjoyed a very successful archery season this past fall and consider Montana a premeir big game state and I feel that it is a

priveledge to be able to live and hunt here.

I just moved here 1 1/2 yrs ago so I have little experience in the area - however, my brother from Kansas and 3 friends drove up to Bow hunt for 3 weeks. They spent plenty of money and are VERY serious hunters. They had a "great" time. I mostly hunted to with them. They all loved the area, the season etc. They will no doubt be back, at least my brother for sure who got a 7', 310 lb. black bear.

Hunting in Montana is great! Its fun to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

Our biggame animals are one of Montanas most valuable assets. They should be managed at optimal numbers - not being done
If we have a either gun or archery season we should be able to pick species ie gun for elk, bow for deer or vice-versa

8. FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS DOING A GOOD JOB.

Continue the good work - do not go to a bow or gun decision, please! Keep the choices open!

I feel the Montana Fish and Game Department has done an excellent job of managing the elk herd, not only for bowhunters but for rifle hunters also. The only thing I disagree with is the north side of the Missouri River being made permit only for bowhunters. I feel you have allowed a small number of selfish bowhuntersto get what they want. I would like you to take another look at the effects of this. Other than that I think you're doing a great job for bowhunters.

This is a good thing your doing. If you ever need helpagain, please ask.

The Fish and Game is doing a fine job of managing all game herds in western Montana. We do not need any of the drastic changes listed in this questinaire. Keep up the good work and above all listen to the sportsmen of Montana.

Keep up the good work.

Thanks for being concerned and for the survey.

Thanks for sending out this questionnaire and being concerned how the sportsmen feels around the state.

Keep up the good work.

Keep up the good work! I would like to see the Dept.of FWP funding increased substantially to allow the increase in the Dept's manpower for adequate management and increased research in both game and nongame species of Montana. This increase in funding should not come from increased prices of hunting licenses. All those of us who live in this state should pay for Game and Parks management.

Keep up the good work. Thank you.

I feel the Fish, Wildlife and Parks is doing a great job for all hunters. Real hunters get out and get the thrill of the outdoors no matter if they bag game or not. Keep up the good work.

Keep up the good work.

Keep it up!!

At the present time the management practices which the Department of FWP are applying seem to be greatly increasing the quality of

hunting in my favorite areas.

Drawing for cow permits during rifle seasons has really helped our hunting. I hunt on my ranch and behind. Herd numbers were down to 7 cows in 1979 and now over 50. (Keep up the good work).

In general I am satisfied with our big game seasons and their liberalization of time. The freedom we have in this state makes us the envy of other states and in this aspect I congratulate our law makers and wildlife managers.

There are a lot of big bulls out there still. Management is doing something right.

I appreciate your interest in your concern of hunting problems conditions and situations which many of us encounter in this great state.

Fish and Game does a very good job. Hunting is the enjoyment of doing. If we always killed game each hunting season, there would be very few left. To do is what is important.

I am glad to see that someone is concerned enough about archery hunting to conduct a survey such as this one. Keep up the good work.

I like the way it is set up with an unlimited district because you don't feel so bad if you don't get your first choice. I look forward to every year. Even though I didn't get a shot this year just to see the Missouri Breaks elk is a special to me and I thank the Dep. Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Keep up the good work and thank you. Archery hunting is an important recreational pursuit in Montana.

For what it is worth, I like what is being done in the Elkhorns. I have hunted there a lot and see a lot of elk but not a good number of bulls. I would like to see something similar done to improve the number of big buck deer in our area.

For overall use I feel that Montana Dept. F W & P has done a super job. There is definitely more game seen now than a few years ago. My selectivity has gone way up but it is sure great to see game the way it is seen now. I would favor trophy areas, but my computer drawing luck would probably keep me from ever getting to hunt such an area.

On the whole the Dept. FWP seems to be regulating the season.

I think your survey is a good idea.

I personally think the fish and game is doing a very good job

with the changing times and pressure being applied to hunting in general. Keep up the good work from someone who cares about good hunting regulations.

I feel fish and game has done a good job. Would like to see a few more trophy type areas - increased media on Tip Mont. program and possible change of license type to prevent reuse and stiffen poaching fines. Also clarification on some laws if a legal shot animal were to die in illegal area.

The seasons and quantity of game are good. Improving numbers of trophy animals isn't a bad idea. Increasing public land to hunt in (eastern Montana) would be nice (I live in 700 Region).

Keep up the good work

I look forward to many more years of excellent hunting in Montana, as a new Montana resident (2 years) I have come to appreciate the inovative game management used. Montana hunting is the best I have ever seen in the U.S.A. Please keep up the good work!

I am pleased to see MFWP take an active interest in what the average sportsman thinks. I was beginning to think we were forgotten in the herd of outfitters, Landowners and other big money Lobbyests. Your on the right track--

Sorry, I missed the 2-15-88 Deadline, any-ways thanks for doing a good job. Next year I will be able to give you information, as I will be hunting this year.
Sorry I was late, Keep up the Good work.

You're doing a good job. Trophy hunting is the only area I would really like to see improved.

Having hunted many years while residing in Colorado I appreciate the The Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' efforts to give the residents of Montana the best possible chance of putting meat on their table. This includes the opportunity for archery hunters to also rifle hunt. Colorado catered too much to the out of state trophy hunters who inevitably are the most dangerous and worst sports in the field. I appreciate Montana's efforts to limit these negative influences on the hunting experience even at the expense of the lost revenues these people potentially offer.

I feel the dept. is doing a very good job of managing the archery aspect of your responsibilities.

I'm happy to see the state fish & game yet involved in hunter preference issues. Thank you & sorry for not sending this earlier. Keep it up!

I'm satisfied with my hunting in Montana. Till now. If there has to be any cutting let it be in non-resident. Thank you. Keep up the good work.

State Wildlife Biologists seem to have a good handle on Elk populations. As a professional I trust their judgment. It would be nice to see populations remain stable or increase. Thanks for the survey.

I believe the hunting time we get extra when we bow hunt is real good. I myself do not want it changed. I believe all you folks are doing a fine job; I realize there is a lot of planning and work put into it.

Good job!
Keep it up!

Thank you for being so concerned about Montana's resources. They contribute so much to us!

Keep up the good work & maybe shorten the season by one week.

I appreciate the State of MT working to improve the Wildlife, Habitat, and Hunting that I have grown up with and hope it will be around for my son to enjoy!

I know that hunter information is an important management tool and I am happy to help however I can.

You people are doing a good job, keep up the good work. Thanks

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I think your biologists are doing a very good job. My only complaint is that biologists should make season & limit decisions based on biological considerations. I do not feel it is right for non biologists on the commission to influence decisions & limits from political motivations or pressures.

I don't think many changes are needed. I think the decision to limit access to Fort Peck Elk hunting to only those hunters holding a permit was a good idea & it improved the hunting conditions up there. Keep up the good work.

Keep up the good work!

I think USF&G does a very good job - (catching poachers, helping hunters with directions etc.) as well as (maintaining camp grounds Roads etc.) and would like to express my thanks from my son & me.

-I think this is good! As a whole the Dept of Fish Wildlife & Park has done very good in Wildlife Management in controlling

amount of harvest vehicle control (closures) etc! There is more elk, Deer now than I've seen in last 22 yrs. Good Job!

I think the Fish & Game Dept. is Doing a Fine Job. Keep Up the Good Work. Thank You,

Keep up the good work We appreciate it. My brother and I had a good time again this year

Department is doing a good job with present management to meet needs of state's archers. This may have to be changed in the future as the number of archers increase significantly.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey, I enjoy Bow Hunting a great deal. I have taken 6 buck Ant. 6 yrs in a row w/my bow, but I am seeing an obvious decline in the local Ant. populations, ie. 710, due to the additional doe, fawn tags available in that area, keep up the Good Work.

I appreciate the Dept. of Fish Wildlife and Parks efforts to obtain the opinions of Archery hunters in an effort to maintain or improve Quality hunting. I think Montana has the Best Archery Season of its neighboring states. Thank you.

I'm impressed with your interest & quality of the study.

There is considerable "luck" involved in this type of hunting. This year I saw about 200 elk but did not get a close enough shot to assure a positive kill and did not shoot at any. The logging industry cut my favorite tree stand of past years, but so goes progress and I readily understand - the elk likewise found new cover and I discovered their area too late to be successful. And since I had a cow permit for rife season I elected to wait for colder weather and sure success without danger of spoiled meat. Thank you for your time effort and interest. I for one appreciate the near impossible job you have in trying to satisfy everyone, and am truly grateful for the attitude and assistance your people extend.

This archery season was very successful for myself, I got my 1st bull ever in the Spanish Peaks (Lee Metcalf Wilderness) the bull scored 329 3/8. I had a little trouble with the Flying D Ranch, and had to resolve the problem with the help of Grahm Taylor of your office. He was very helpful and I would like to thank him and your Department for their assistance.

Keep up the good work

Consider changing format of game laws newspaper. this is my 1st year as a resident in Mt (from PA) & I found the newspaper a bit confusing - especially special regulations in the Various districts.

It is good to see that the Fish & Game is working to benefit the wildlife and hunter. I feel the drawings for special permits, especially for the Bighorn Sheep permits in 203

I think this survey on the archery season is a good idea, if it's being used by the Fish & game dept.. For archery seasons and regulations and NOT by the anti-bowhunters in the dept. I believe so far that the game dept. has done a good job in managing the game in the state of Montana.

Part III Question 11. if anything Archery Hunting probably equalizes Elk distribution allowing them to use a larger part of their Range to better advantage!

-----: I commend the Dept. for making a strong effort to work with landowners to create special management areas and to find alternatives to Fee Hunting - I do not support any Fee Hunting!

I am happy about the area I hunt in. I imagine there were 50 head of elk in the area I saw six to seven bulls but I did not get a shot. You are doing good work in animal management hope you can continue to do so.

I am overall pleased with the rules, regulations, seasons, and simplicity of archery hunting in Montana. Since I am an avid sportsman and am active in all kinds of hunting and fishing I would like to than our fish, wildlife, and parks management for their efforts toward the sportsmen of this great state.

The Montana Dept. of Fish Wildlife and Parks is one of the few remaining good things for Montana.

I would like to see less bowhunters when I first started 15 years ago it seemed like no one bow hunted (it was great).

But not being an unfair person I believe everyone should have the opportunity to try bowhunting I think Fish and Game is doing a great job!

I think our fish, wildlife and parks dept. is doing a good job at managing our game in Montana! We need more access to Public Domain and less roads in forest and BLM property.

I would like to thank the Fish - N - Game for making it possible to archery hunt. It's wild and it is very exciting

I found bowhunting very enjoyable and had numerous encounters at close range with deer. Keep up the good work.

I applaud FWP efforts to restrict access by gate closure-need more such closures to protect game by road hunters

Keep up the good work Montana is something special to all

Americans.

I hunted mainly whitetails in the river bottom, I killed 4 doe's 1 buck, I personally have never had it better hunting deer, this was my first year. I feel that someone has done an excellent job with population control, I would like to get more involved with helping the state with wildlife, please call if you would be interested in me. I love the outdoors and would like to see it stay that way

I am concerned a little that this survey seems negative from a bowhunters standpoint. I feel the F & G is doing a good job of managing our animals: I would like to see all licences increased and the extra money go to open more private land & access through leases & purchases of land. This would greatly improve hunting conditions in certain parts of the state.

Archery tends to move elk around an area but does not move them out of an area. Montanas liberal seasons make it an excellent spot to hunt - if the opportunity is not available for any thing an archery hunter wants-somewhere in the state-it doesn't exist. Keep up the excellent management of your game herds.

The MT Dept of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is doing a great job. They should hire more wardens.

I feel that the Dept. of F.W.P has done an excellent job of management in the Deer Lodge valley and will continue to work with landowners in the area.

Thank you for being concerned about the game in Montana. Hunting could be made better but I see you are trying!

Fish Wildlife & Parks are doing a great job.

I enjoy your services.

Thank you.

Thank you for the expertise & concern with game management in Montana.

I think Montana does a fine job of Game Management. I feel it is extremely critical to continue to limit the number of Non-resident Hunters. I like the Branch-antlered Bull concept and feel it should be state-wide. I do not want the sale of any BLM land to the public. These hunter surveys are Great! Contact me anytime.

January 29, 1988

John D. Cada
Ass't Research Bureau Chief
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

RE: Harvest & Preference Survey - 1987

Dear Mr. Cada

Thank you for including me in your bowhunting survey. I wanted to take the time to express my pride in your department for the tremendous job that you have done in preserving our Montana hunting heritage. All Montanans can be proud of the job you have done.

I have been a hunter for 20 years and I can attest to the fact that the effort that the Fish & Game Department has put forth in game management has improved the hunting experience and the populations of big game. When I was a young boy my father had told me by the time I was his age there probably would no longer be hunting as he knew it. Well in a strage way he was right. Today the hunting is not the same. The populations are much higher and the opportunities are greater. The advent of bowhunting has given me more hunting than I imagined.

I feel that it is important to mention that I am very impressed with the Departments' willingness to listen to hunters concerns and its desire to be test alternatives and new ideas. I can think of no other agency that is more cooperative, helpful and productive than yours.

The major reason I have remained in Montana as an adult is for the elk hunting and other outdoor opportunities that our State offers. I am sure that there are many other who feel as I do.

I realize that as hunting pressures increase the need for restrictions will arise. This will mean that sacrifices will have to be made by hunters in order to protect our states most valuable asset, wildlife.

My major concern is that of the rapidly disappearing winter ranges for our elk herds. I feel the Department must quickly address this issue to prevent major winter kills that will inevitably occur when we suffer our next severe winter. I think the Department must aggressively pursue this issue. I realize that there is a tremendous financial cost to acquiring these lands. I suggest that license fees be raised to accomodate this. I would gladly pay twice the current cost of an elk license if I knew the increase would go to the acquisition of habitat. I believe that most elk hunters would agree with me on this issue.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me. I feel confident in your abilities to manage this great resource of ours.

Sincerely,
An interested hunter

/

J

9. FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS POLICY

I think bowhunting has been real good and have no problems, except that you guys are causing problems by think permit hunting is the answer. Also I think if you guys F&G and commision don't start working with sportsmen instead of against them we have no alternative but to try and change the system and get the commision elected by the sportsman and Montana citizens insted of appointed.

90% of this survey has nothing to do with setting your archery season dates and game kill area. You have basically wasted your money and this survey. Stop playing politics and play ball. Pay more attention to Montana hunters and not out of state hunters. We pay your wages also!!! You snooze you lose!!

The Montana fish and game are to money hungry and do not care about Montana hunters.

I feel the numbers of game Fish and Game reports are inaccurate. I believe the counting methods they. We count alot of the same animals over and over giving a larger number than actual count.

The branch antlered laws in 310, 311, 360, 301 are the best move by F&G. In 50 years I only with that they were implamented 10 years ago.

I am open to a wide scope of management options! It is my feeling that the people in the Administrative level at Helena are not enough of game managers to implement "New" seasons (both type of season and length) that are put forward by Western Montana Biologists.

Why is the Department discriminating against the archers?

Dear John, The "management actions" listed in #8 are so ridiculous - but normal for the Montana Fish and Game. for example in 8d why don't you just say raise it to \$20 so those people who can't afford to go hunting have to stay home! Why not come right out and ask if people would favor a no spikes archery season in order to increaase the number of more mature bulls - in keeping with the no spikes rifle season?

I think the Fish and Game and the US Fish Wildlife and Parks could be more cooperative with a fellow. Instead of acting like the elk or deer are on the endangered list. They could held a little more.

This was mt first year at elk hunting with a bow and so far I'm satisfied with how things are run by the F & G.

For some reason we have people in the F & G who want to do away with archery hunting when it provide more recreational hours per hunter per critter killed than does rifle hunting - with less impact on the population and distribution of the animals.

I am very glad to see someone is concerned with the archery hunters in Montana. I think the DFWP should be more concerned with our needs. Each year the rates go up and I've yet to see any improvements.

Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks change the restrictions on hunting to often. There are too many restrictions to increase trophy animals for the minority of hunters. Thank you for trying to make hunting better.

I hope the season don't change archery or rifle because it seems to me that the State Fish and Game is slowing trying to run the little guy out of the woods to make room for just outfitters and those that have the big money.

I think when FWP started using a drawing for a tag on the north side of CMR (621, 622, 623 etc.) they made a stupid move. Now all the pressure is on the south side and hunters are packed together so it put extreme pressure on a small area. The elk willsoon have the habitat ruined on the north side. These guys are suppose to think first, then act.

I would like to see more deer (whitetail and mule) on River in areas 410 and 621. I feel that the deer population hinders archery hunting for deer in these areas.

I'm glad to see fish and game dept. are concerned about the opinions of archers.

Archery elk hunting is extremely popular in the Missouri River Breaks. The state promotes hunting here at the expense of quality. A limit on the number of licenses sold should be initiated. Region 4 Fish and Game could use some personnel changes!

I've hit a point that I'm ready to quit hunting. A year ago my son Mark and I had special tags. We spent to solid weekends trying to get on private land between Laurel, Roberts and Red Lodge. I'm fed up being told about some problem ranchers have with you (Fish and Game) and those terrible hunters shooting their beef and leaving gates open.

How are you eligible is there is no place to put your name and address? I hope number at bottom works. I'm very irritated with you. When I put in for one area with my sons and we apply as a joint party, we were put into different areas and so more of us went to be fair to each other. I'm upset that some done get

their antelope permits and are asked to send more and more money to one or more additional license while others don't get any. Something is wrong with your system.

I drove from Laurel to Miles City and spent 2 days asking to hunt and being turned down. I spent one weekend around the Broadus area and found I could hunt there if I wanted to pay the individual ranchers anywhere from \$25 a day to \$75 a day. I'm upset when I hear how some people get picked to hunt certain animals year after year and some are never picked. Someone programs your computers real well. Joke.

It looks to me like the only thing the F & G is interested in is how much more money they can collect every year. You manage for numbers but don't care about the quality of hunting. I've watched the F & G expand in Montana and how many toys they have to play with (ATV's) etc. and watched the hunting go down the drain.

1) I would favor "either-or" if I could trust MDFWP to give me the same length and areas of hunting opportunities we have now. I want to be able to hunt whitetail with my bow in gun areas during rifle season. 2) Why does MDFWP hate archery? Archery seasons fit MDFWP objections of maximizing hunting recreation at minimum impact to game populations. Opportunities should be expanded - not threatened. 3) Why has MDFWP opposed archery - only for special species (moose, sheep, goat)? Most western states have some opportunities for archery only on some of these species. 4) Is this type of questionnaire being sent to gun hunters? Why not?

Do you have or should you have an Internal affairs dept. to monitor waste, losses, embezzlement or theft in all departments concerned with Fish, Game, Hunting and Fishing management? I ask these questions because I am truly concerned for all.

1) I don't hunt deer or bear, only elk, if I see a deer or bear, I shoot it. Difference is motivation, no elk no meal (\$). There are too many and ill define districts, its very confusing altho it does give you boys jobs. Also Fish and Game, while needed, acts too much like a law unto itself, shows insufficient wisdom and discretions. No I've never been afoul of them either. The laws are to be obeyed. I simply disagree with the degree of complexity you generate. Hunting districts should be defined on a larger geographic scale, more use of roads as boundaries since they follow geographical lines generally, less use of watersheds since often one does not know when you've crossed a boundry. Confusion creates disgust, disgust heads disregard. Its a principal I've noticed over the years.

I have hunted elk in Montana for the past 50 years. I have a Masters degree in Biology and am acquainted with personnel and

practices of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The emphasis more and more is to manage sportsmen and his pocketbook rather than fish and game. The killing of cows and calves (elk) must be terminated, or on a permit basis. There is an abundance of suitable habitat and browse - no game.

I live up against Forest Service land and feed elk in the winter. Their are fewer elk every year for the past 5 years, but I have been told that the F & G has less to do with fewer animals and they seem to be on the right track.

Archery hunting since I began hunting with a bow. The increase in bow hunters and fee hunting I feel are too detrimental to the bowhunting experience. I feel the Fish and Game should be working to improve landowner hunter relations and also improving habitat by supporting the preservation of roadless area and acquiring more winter range. To these end I support increased bow hunting stamp fee but absolutley do not want to see an either or hunting season or a reduction in bowhunting opportunity by a reduction in the season.

In the past I've had quite a problem with the bear counts in my hunting areas. On four different ocassions I've had good bulls located the week before season was to open, only to have the chopper buss around for a couple of days and it doesn't take long for the elk to move out of those high basins. I can't help but think that if they wouldn't have been disturbed that they would have still been using the area. I realize that early Sept. is probably the best time to count bears, especially before the opening of the general season, but it seems that there should be a happy medium. Areas: Cabinet Mts and Scothsmans Crossark Area.

It may sound like I am not very good at what I do but there is nothing as exciting as bugling in a bull elk to 30 yards and nothing more frustrating as not being able to get a good shot but some day it will happen. I get the feeling someone is out to get bowhunters and it's not right if we opt to spend the extra money for equipment, license, etc., hundreds of dollars we should have a choice. It's still Montana you know!

Question 13. I felt Region F & G had problems working with ranchers in the Nlack Food - Ovando Area.

Some people in the Dept. and several commissioners feel archers are killing too many mature bulls. My experience says someone is juggling statistics to arrive at whay they want to see. Archery has been and still is a low impact high recreation hour hunt! Under current guidelines for the Dept. to maximize recreation hours - they should be anxious to encourage more archery hunters to go afield, rather than entertain proposals to restrict

archers.

I think the present system is quite fine. It is my belief that if there are more restrictions on hunting it will destroy hunting for many who hunt now! Take care of it but don't over interfere! Manage it well and it will be around for a very long time, but don't over reg. it.

Montana system is best compared to all others I am acquainted with.

I do not personally think the fish and game dept. of Montana ever uses the results of any survey to make decisions. I know for a fact that many regulations are made exclusively by large bureaucrats which have no regard for the common sportsman. I am adamantly opposed to any fee increase because I know it is not the sportsman who benefits, but the big wigs in the fish and game. I hunt exclusively on private land, and am a land holder myself. I have seen just how poorly the fish and game operate and feel that before any hunting fee's or regulations are changed, lets rid ourselves of the present management and elect managers of wildlife who really give a damn. I am not speaking strictly of archery or bow hunting here.

I feel the Montana Fish and Game manages by extremes. They don't do anything until its imparitive. I feel they are way more concerned about out of staters fees and making Montana look good with trophy racks than they are about the local people who hunt to get meat for the winter.

I believe the old clear cuts shoud be reburned every ten years to give ample feed for animals. I believe instead of having massive kills in Gardiner and Garrison, they should transplant these elk to build some herds back up. I believe bow hunters should be able to use poison (already leagle in 2 states) so so many elk are not wounded and lost. I think you should close the season on spikes and calves to build herds.

1) Remember this "so called" research money, - funds or whatever you want to call it that is attained from licenses fees is out of my back pocket! Please use it for what it was meant for - wildlife! 2) As a sportsman I'm aware of the efforts made by MFW&P but sometimes, it seems the efforts are a waste of money and time. My request is that you turn your efforts toward the sportsmans needs for it is their money that makes yours!

I think the F W & Parks Department in Montana are money hungry and don't give a damn about the wildlife.

The hunting season starts in Sept. and ends at Thanksgiving - that is way too long.

I question if management practices are for the benefit of game, or to benefit the hunting public, especially resident hunters (we live here) or solely interested in the management of money, the latter being detrimental to game and the hunting public. This is a personal opinion of a working, tax paying resident of this great state. Thank you for your time.

I don't understand why you are so concerned with changing the amount of archery hunters or segregating hunting methods. Archery hunter populations are very low in this state.

Our state should be a leader in the proper management of wildlife populations in relationship to their habitat. This state should not become a blind follower of other state's trying to deal with dense populations and ignorant political pressure.

Please don't get into the business of dictating what it the "elitest hunting stile" and purest methods, "like fisheries presently does". Please manage our wildlife from the best scientific information you can obtain. (Habitat is very important). P.S. Stop the Forest Service.

The fish and game should establish elk farms and distribute elk through the state of Montana and spend less on administrative cost.

Why is it possible for a land owner to block access to public lands and at the same time be able to use it himself for grazing in the from of cow unit leases or whatever. I feel that any time a rancher is paid subsidies by the government for any reason (hay stack destruction by elk), - that rancher should not be able to close leased public lands to hunting by those that support it (tax payers).

If Fish and Game officials would worry more about the job of game management and less about jacking the hunting laws around to promote the out of state hunters dollar, the better us locals would feel about paying their wages.

I hope F & G will listen to the bow hunters and not to all the others who don't or can't hunt with a bow. I have had people who work for fish and game put bow hunting down. But when asked if they ever had done it they hadn't ever shot a bow.

The B.P.A. power line and access roads in area 200 severely harmed the elk range and feeding habitat. Useless logging roads in the area destroyed a prime breeding wallow and trail system. Extremely poor judgement on the part of federal and state officials. The area will never recover from the damage.

In my favorite hunting area (110) is a horrible predator problem. The bears, mountain lions, and wolves are eating up at least 90%

of the elk calf crop and fawns. The last 4 or 5 years the deer and elk herds have dropped in number significantly. If action is not taken soon the herd will soon perish. A large percentage of the hunters in this area will go to great lengths to prevent this from happening. Most folks feel the wolves are the major contributor to this factor and resent the use of our tax dollars for the study of these horrible killers. I hope you people will look into this matter.

The Department of Fish and Game is trying to make hunting a tourist attraction. These surveys don't pack much weight when a government agency gets it in their head to do something. For example, for the past three years Fish and Game officials have been conducting meetings in Libby on the augmentation of the grizzly bear. The meetings I attended, which were all they held in Libby, showed the people didn't want the bears. Fish and Game officials kept telling us "if the numbers are too many, we are flexible." When the final draft came out, the numbers were still the same as they were at the first meeting. Maybe our Fish and Game officials needed to be elected and not appointed.

The fish and game spend too much money on study and gates and not enough on transplant of elk. Too much money going in people's pockets and not enough for game management. If cow and calf were put on drawing during rifle season, it would eliminate herd shooting by one person supplying meat for friends and relatives.

I am disappointed in the fact that the Dept of Fish, Wildlife and Parks are letting the USDAPS play politics with the elk herd in area 560 by reintroducing domestic sheep grazing there in the Meatrack-Carbonate allotments.

You would think that the MFG Dept. would do as the sportsman clubs ask.

They are concerned enough to become involved in the problems and solutions of game management and land conservation.

During Archery season Fish & Wildlife personnel should not fly areas looking for radio collared elk. If they do they should keep it to themselves & not inform their friends of elk location.

I believe block management areas should be open to archery hunters. I called the Miles City Office and they would not give me any areas of Block Management during archery or rifle season. The funds to pay for this come from we the citizens and we should have the right to use them.

In the matter of your management actions, I and several other hunters think they stink! And we also have been thinking of hunting out of state, if you keep messing with things. You have a good thing going. Why spoil it?

I think the Department is more sensitive to dooars and revenue derived in some regions than channelling energies to provide a quality-huntable resource. Looks like the generations of Liscence revenue holds A much higher priority than good sound management to provide a sustained resource. Whitetail resources in Region 7 are a good example of an insensitive boom or bust. I'm sure that management in Region 7 will again be done with a zerox machine. Just an example of what is in-store for whitetail hunters.

I think that game preserve hunting should be limited to hunters off the 16 and under group.

We need more quality product (more good, big game); not more bureaucracy. Cut down on your expensive HDQTRS Bldgs & put my money into more people in the field to stop law breakers, and also to get more factual data needed to help increase game population of big animals , realistically - not theoretically!

Every reasonable effort should be made by DFWP to expand and enhance archery hunting opportunities and thereby positively respond to their mandate to provide the maximum amount of hunting opportunity without jeopardizing the resource.

My biggest gripe with F&G is that it seems to me everything you do is geared towards \$. (for example, I feel the quality of hunting is dramatically decreased by out of state hunters) however I believe youre priorities are the revenue.

Fish & Game want to much wilderness. CMR is nothing but registered prairie dogs & snakes since ranchers were moved out & no alfalfa is left. Biggest waste of land I ever saw! Used to be best place I ever hunted. Could be managed great but isn't. Why want more land - when can't manage what they have now.

What you are trying to do is over-regulate all kinds of hunting. and create a huge buracracy that would become subservient to no one. IE Montanans. Keep It Simple Stupid

I'm glad to see something is being done but; lower fees longer archery only areas fine some employees of the Dept. that have low education levels or make them improve the thinking capacity. Commet based on actual encounters.

The walk in area are not in the appropriate place.

Elk hunting in northern Montana sucks. Elk are starving to death in parks. And I feel a lot could be done to transport elk to aeras of better feed, & seeded to meet demands. Elk are planted & the locations printed on front page of newspapaers, so thay can

be slaughtered opening morning.

I am an avid bow hunter (mostly) also a rifle hunter (second choice) I am completely discused with the quota on bears in the region 5. Bear will never become on the endangered list. if we can't hunt by sight only. I am not an avid bear hunter. But this. past hunting season I saw 6 bears which ranged from. the bear tootles all the way north to area 540. We saw 3 of those 6 bear archery hunting 4 Antelope! If we are ging to have a quota on bears we should be able to use dogs or bait. Who ever the biologist is for this area should be terminated.

Airplane's flying over keeping count of hunters by fish & game fly to low & scare elk - happened twice last year. Local people are good sports out of state & Kalispel hunters are

I wish fish & game would quit thinking of the money and listen to the people that pay them. Put back some of the resources that you used up by issuing X amount of tags \$ is all that they could see. The deer population in the eastern part of the state in declined alot! Quite making every area a special drawing area.

Why did you ask question #3, Part I.

After answering this questionar, and then thinking about it; this is the most unprofessional and slanted thing I have ever seen the Dept. do. I have always felt the Dept. had the best interest of sportsman as its basic reason for existing. This appears to be an obvious attempt at getting some information to use against archery hunters. If not; why would you ever think of asking a question like #10 in part III?

What difference does it make how much money I spend to enjoy my choice of outdoor recreation? I could go on and on about this unprofessional inquiry but I will let you go.

I doubt you have the integrity to even answer my concerns. Don't bother to put me in for the drawings as I doubt you will even use my responses!

I feel that the price of license is high enough, as the Fish & Game Dept. is not doing and have not done the management with the money they have promised to do over the years.

I also am against starting the wolf reintroduction.

I am quite sure that I almost ran over a wolf two miles north of Vaughn last April.

I would like to know how you can tell who sent in this survey and who did not if there is no return address?

It is not a big deal, just curious.

The fish & Game seems to worry only about the ranchers & outfitters interests in the area's I hunt, not the hunters.

I think on your boundry maps for the different districts should be more outlined with known boundry marks, it is getting harder every year to determine were a person hunts and if it is private or not. Thanks.

Agin. Colo' has a good elk herd - take a look at their program.

I was raised in Libby Mt. lived in the hills hunting & fishing sence I was 9. I feel the planting of Grizley cubs with Black Bears is a crazy idea We have Black Bear problems in town every Dry year. I would hate to see that become a grizley problem every other year.

Not being knowledgeable in the Area of Wildlife management, I rely heavily on your decisions concerning this important area. Furthermore, I obey and respect all laws governing me in hunting these wild animals. I feel the layman hunter is much the same as me although they complain alot.

In general, I feel the archers are not highly supported by DFPW, but are mostly tolerated. While we pay extra for an archery stamp (plus tags) generally our needs are not seriously considered or are secondary to rifle hunters. I do not feel we significantly impact herd populations @ 17,000 archers, but by the same token fear there are attempts to erode our privledges. I hunt for the challenge, using longbow & recurve, it takes many hard hours of dedicated practice & hunting. I could certainly take more animals if I used high tech equipment but that's not why I'm in it.

1) Don't cut our seasons.

2) Why not open-up state lands - at least for archers - we have limited range weapons reducing risk to livestock.

3) Why not give archers a "B" (doe) tag or "A" tag with their stamp purchase?

4) Why not open up the 200 and 300 areas for the whitetail 'B' (doe only) tags. Impact on populations would be minimal.

5) The archery only areas are great! Allows us to keep going during rifle season. Policing is poor in these areas - lots of rifle hunting occurs anyway.

Overall, don't further restrict us. and don't open up Montana for more out-of-state archers! I am in Montana (a native!) for a reason and its certainly not economics. I love the hunting opportunity.

All & All I'd be happy w/the status quo with a bit more recognition from DFWP. This survey maybe a good 1st step for better relations. Thanks for your time!

I don't know why you send these out, its been my opinion that you do as you please anyway! You sent one last year about Elk and now only out of state (rich people) get to hunt Big Bulls how do you plan to mess up Archery? Remmember the people own the wild

game not M.D.F.W.A.P.

Fish & Game Management should listen to what the wardens in the field have to say.

The head of the Fish & Game Dept. should be an elected official instead of an appointee.

It is my sincere opinion that if any of the items suggested on page 3 question number 8 are actually carried through, many sportsmen will be angry and the department of Fish & Game will be buried with letters of complaint.

My opinion and alot of others that I know and hunt with. I think that if everyone just left the animals alone instead of shooting them full of drugs and trying to improve the lives of the animals the animals would recover faster. & healthier. They don't need to know the age, what the animal eats and what it does just leave them alone. I also thing that the tags are to high.

Licenses Fees went up where it is getting pretty expensive to go hunting, camping, and fishing, And all the public sees is Land Being closed off to the public lakes that aren't showing improvement to launching pads, camping facilities etc. It gets pretty discouraging.

I feel that with many varied interest, and their pressure on the hunting, some changes are inevitable. These changes can be worked through to a mutually satisfactory conclusion. I have worked with DFWP before with the fishing and feel that I would like to help, if needed, to give input from the sportsman, as well as land owner point of view. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to express my views in the survey.

The wolf recovery must be stopped. It doesn't take four years of college to see where 100-200-or 500 or however many wolfs there gets to be, time one deer-elk-sheep moose a week is a lot of game not available for hunting or just viewing.

I don't think you guys go through everyone of these and see what we put and you probably don't care what we say if you want to do something you'll do it anyway

I wood like to know why you are tring to close a million dollar industry in Montana.

All this questionnaire is tring to do is cut the Bow season.

Also I feel there is no need for a drawing to fill out this questionare.

Also, how come I haven't gotten a questionare this many questions about Rifle hunting impact. I also hunt with a rifle.

Survey has a very anti-Bowhunting air about it. The F&G Commission seems Determined to ruin archery hunting as they must

need all the Branch Bulls that they can get so they might have a chance to get one instead of an archer.

The managment practices listed on page 3 are seemingly very negative towards archery hunting. As long as hunting is done legally by responsible people, it should make no difference what method is utilized. Hunters rights have slipped over the years and these proposed management practices are again contributing to the loss of an American Tradition. I think this state would be doing it's people a great injustice if any of these practices are implemented.

I feel these survey's are not to see how many animals but to try & raise the price of hunting and restrict hunting. It's also away to support outfitter & encourage land owner to charge to hunt. The fish & Game Dept. are no longer interested in local people who hunt for the meat, but make a buck is their attitude. I also feel there is too much dead weight in the Dept. I don't feel that there are that many animals taken archery hunting & just the presents of man hunting make animals ready for general hunt season.

I gather from the direction these questions lead we are looking at more restrictions. We already pay more to bow hunt but we don't get any more game. More restrictions aren't needed. More laws aren't needed. More fees aren't needed. If it ain't broke don't fix it. - I consider courtesy a virtue and I practice it. In the past 2 years I've dealt with 5 F&G employees. Only one was courteous. Four were arrogant.

Part II Question 13. Adminestration concerns itself too much with money by catering to out of state hunters, and many times forgets about the Montanans who support their state & the animals that are the center of this industry. I guess that's the problem - its going from hunting & turning into big business.

there is a general consensus among hunters, both resident and non-resident in my area that the big game animals are being manged for population and not quality thus the Dept of Fish Wildlife & Parks can sell more licenses. there seems to be only a half hearted attempt to listen to hunters and sportsmen. More input is needed by the average hunter and I think a change of policy is well over due.

Looking at your questions, it appears that you are thinking about all kinds of exotic management experiments. Please just leave things alone. Please concentrate on habitat improvement and quit screwing around with population structure manipulation attempts. Happiness is a steaming gut pile - that's your bottom line.

I am a native Montanan and don't want any more restriction on what I can harvest (i.e. branch bulls), I want to hunt "every"

year, the seasons are short enough already. I don't like the trend to harvest fewer but bigger bulls. Then number of Moose, sheep, & Goat permits needs to be increased!

I think all prices on stamps and conservation licenses should be decreased in order to provide more hunting opportunity for people instead of the F, W, Parks milking the hunter of his hard earned money. But if you keep prices the same WHY don't you use it for the prevention and managing wildlife. Clean up your act!

I hope the Fish, Wildlife & Parks doesn't pull the same stunt they pulled in the Elkhorns - in the rest of the state.

The only complaint I have is last year, the Forest Service & Fish & Game allowed seismograph crews to fly their helicopter at tree top level, during the Archery season, over the major part of area 520 - I was pretty mad - I don't know who is at fault, it scared the elk and disrupted their rut, they affect the elk from Red Lodge to the Stillwater River, -

If this is an attempt at coming up with proposals like the rifle proposals for our area I strongly resent it. I feel that the State doesn't not look out for the best interest of the sportsman, and want to create their own little world based on the feeling (not fact) of the the biologist involved. Leave the hunting seasons alone.

I would like to see the Fish and Game Commission an elected commission instead an appointed one. Representation from each region. and a chairman elected from this group.

It is pretty clear to me that a choice of weapons season is not too far off. I would like to see it set up so a person could bow hunt one species and rifle hunt another.

Your department systematically raises licence fees while available hunting sites decrease. You have become a taxing bureaucracy concerned with raising fees and adding regulations and restrictions. your apparent goal seems to be to force all hunters to use one of the low-life outfitters that dominate several of the better hunting areas.

I hope that the Fish, Wildlife & Parks uses reasonable judgement on any changes to do with wildlife. And not to meet the public eye. Most public wants everything delivered in hand with a gold platter. All wild life. Big & Small would disappear. in a very short while. P.S. I myself Bow hunt just so I can be out with the big game. Listening to the bugling elk is far more satisfying than shooting one.

I have hunted & lived in Montana all my life. I am 37 now. Since I started at 12 I have seen you - the F.W.P. almost totally

ruin the little Belts with logging. I have seen my own area around Absarokee ruined by the local & out of state moved in outfitters. Your game warden's don't respond to the local hunter. Your first concern should be the montana hunter (rifle or bow) before the money made from out of staters!

We need fewer bilogests and more game wardens, longer seasons and fewer restrictions.

We need more access to our national forest lands.

I do not feel that the hunting oppurtunities in this state are worth the cost. It is much too expensive for a resident of Montana to buy all thease licenses and special tags.

I would like to see a commission that was entirely open minded willing to work with all groups wanting to hunt Montana. For one or more of these individuals to be dead set against one group or another is a crime to say the least.... and for the commission Dept. and legislature to try to rape the wildlife resource conservation should be first and foremost in the minds of the people making the decisions on hunting in the state rather than the amount of money that can be obtained by prostituting this resource. The wildlife resource is a Montana resource and should be managed for the healthy, thriving resource that it is without concern for whether or not 1,000 or 100,000 more permits might help the state get it's budget balanced!

I also feel that the commission & Dept. should weight more heavily the feelings and desires of the various hunting groups. We attend meetings where we are asked our opinions... only to be told that decisions have been made contrary to our ideas whether we want them or not. Mr. Olson of the Dept. acts as though we are all illiterate and the truth is the great majority of hunters who have done any elk hunting have probably forgotten more than he knows. I question the requirements for a biologist in his position.

Landowner/Sportsman Committees important

Adequate game populations, management of the species. Better in Field Survey. Mean population

Stop over the counter sale of Whitetail tags - "slaughter tactic" no control

I hope bowhunting isn't being used as a scape goat for changing times. Habitate loss is increasing drastically poaching is increasing particall due to trophy animas worth more., More hunting pressure on a limited recorce. I see no reason for this survey since archery is a low impact sport. I believe the Fish & Game could make a lot of head way by working hand in hand with the Forest Service, and land owners for habitat improvement the biggest limiting factor. Also Montana should get tough with poachers' especially those with trophy and permit animals. I think Montana should look at other states on how things like either or have worked out. It only increased gun hunting

pressure and bowhunting season cut to nothing and there goes a great sport out the door because they were the little guy.

Until the DFW&P starts managing the herds and stops giving in to all demands our hunting quality is going to decrease. We allow far too many outfitters into easily accessible areas which takes hunting opportunity away from the residents. As an example in area 215-specifically in the Little Black foot Drainage two outfitters have camps in there only 2 miles apart. When they have 3-5 hunters 7 days a week during the hunting season the non guided hunter is up against poor odds. And this area can be hunted very well on foot by a day hunter. its not that big - this has to be controlled.

I also strongly believe that we must make hunters designate rifle or archery hunting for the general season. This would eliminate hunters in both areas. I strongly believe that general big game tags should be purchased before drawings or the season. Thanks

I feel the Management in the Northwest has alot of room for improvement both in big game management and fishing management we have alot of potential in the Flathead for exceclet hunting and fishing, I feel we need improvements in the trophy area of elk and also in (herd area). I also think we need a blue ribbon stream in the Flathead, with management & rehabilitation I feel we could reach this goal. With the right regulations (3 point or better on bull elk, stricter regulations in some areas.) and in designated area's, set aside for betterment. I feel we reiterating have great potential for trophy sport both in Big game and in fishing. But Management is the key.

I would also like to see Smith Lake - Batavia made into a managed pheasant area such as the Nine Pipe area South of Ronan, I feel this area needs a strictly managed Pheasant area, at Kalispell we have a lot of elderly people who love to hunt birds but cannot afford to drive or are not able to drive long distance's, This area has great potential I feel. Thank you.

I wish that F.W.D. would purchase the modesty area area 212. It has been mentioned at several Sportsman Club Meetings and we thought the sale of the sheep license would cover the entire cost. Please try as it is a fantastic area. Walk in or not.

I appreciate FWP's concern with archery hunters. As a rifle hunter, too, I have concerns there. I believe that the death of thousands of deer in the eastern 1/2 of the state last year due to 'black tongue' was a reflection of poor management decisions by your dept. When populations became too large fo the habitat to sustain them, nature had to lend you a helping hand. Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

Because wildlife is one of our best state resources, out-of-state (non resident) licenses should be continually looked at as a method of increasing needed revenue. Effective management of

game populations not only includes enforcing regulations, but also in getting a good price for a valuable commodity.

I feel there is alot more that could be done to build up elk, deer and big game in general, especially in my area. Implementation of more available food sources, etc. Closures of roads etc. are not the answer. I would support a bucks, bulls, and fall/bear season only until populations return to above normal. The fish and gmae herd, kill ratio, etc reporting, to me is so far out of line it isn't funny. But it sure sells licenses, especially out of state.

PS- Seems to me any my friends that the Fish and Game is allowing this sstate to become paid hunting affordable only to the rich or powerful and are forgetting who really supports the majority of costs.

I feel the fish and game people drive the elk out of the tysers for their own personal hunting.

Regulations should be made to stop Idaho Rifle hunters from using Montana areas to access Idaho hunting. I think there is a problem with people parking in Montana and shooting elk while they ride into (towards) Idaho during the Montana Archery season.

I was quite upset about the bear hunting in area 580-we planned to hunt bear with bow in this area-and found it had been closed because the quota had been filled-We seen a number of bear and talked to the landowners about this-They said the Fish and Game should never have put a quota on them-Having more problems now then ever before they think you just guess at the number of bears and say "Lets put a quota on them for awhile"-I think the quota in this area should only apply to rifle hunters-the number taken by archery wouldn't matter in an overall season. "a montana sportsman"

In the district that I hunt elk there is a small game reserve tht is posted. I believe this spot is a good place for the animals protection but when a hit animal crawls into the reserve and the hunter can prove there is a hurt animal he should be allowed to obtain that animal.

I would like to see more money spent in Eastern Montana instead of always in the west.

I assume that one of these will be going out to gun hunters.

The questions marked out I though inappropriate

Manage game on sound biological data and quit trying to legislate ethics.

Deregulate wildlife management and consider a black powder season in conjunction with archery season or/and after general season....then fire about 60-80% of your college educated idiots that spend my money on these bull---- surveys.

I like what the fish and wildlife has done for the most part. Just as long as you don't get caught up in all the little things that will eventually clog up bow hunting in Montana. If we keep in mind whats in the best interests of us all (archers) there should be no problems.

I shoot at elk when I feel things are right. I don't hunt elk just to kill them. And as with most good elk hunters they seldom know I'm there. Anyone who spooks elk will seldom get another chance. If you people would stop jumping through your --- because of a few cry babies who are dissatisfied with there own lousy luck you would have less problems. You need more people who will say bull---- and quit jumping on the band wagon with special intrest groups, and do a basic good job for everyone.

Please don't ruin archery seson by letting your yook citty biologist do any thing else his way.

The fish and game doesn't give a ---- about any thing but the money. The sportsman and landowner relation is at a all time low. Leroy Strnad I thought the fish and game did a poor job on that case. (1986) 1987 No hunting by the general public Nice job M.F.G.

Very poor management by FWP. Send mony back before special drawings. When putting with a party, other memebbers receive permits but one. This party will not put in for another permit for special drawing with crooked system used.

Don't screw up Montana the way you did Colorado. We don't have the population problems. I feel we want more opportunities to hunt not less.

I'm 42 yrs. old and have hunted in Montana most of my life. I get the feeling that the economics of hunting have begun to far outweigh the joy of just being out in the woods. I realize that in order to manage the sport it costs money but it's getting to the point that a lot of people who love to hunt just can no longer afford it.

A single lic. (either bow or rifle) should be issued to each hunter-Also the fish W&P should get out of the real estate business and stay with enforcement of game laws-no commissioner should be either a guide or a land owner who gains from sellers services to hunters. This should also extend to family members also.

1. either bow or rifle lic. per hunter
2. get F, W, and P out of real estate
3. get rid of conflicts by outfitters being on commission
4. extend by 2+ weeks the archery season after general rifle season.
5. Have designated only archery areas that contain game and also have access.
6. Exclude all firearms and their use during archery season
7. Set minimum draw weight and arrow broad head cutting surface.
8. Special drawings for moose, sheep goat and antelope for archery only.

Comments,

I hope the response to your so called detailed questionnaire is better than what I've been told by other archery hunters. Some see it as an complete insulting joke. Since most of the questions are of an negative attitude toward the bow hunter. You should already know that the hunter success is very low and the time in the field is great. I've bow hunted for nearly 20 yr's and have had great satisfaction from the demand on my abilities and knowledge. I have little respect for the Fish and Game, it's lack of foresight in all areas of management. It seems all the money paid for all licenses, has never been used for wildlife, habitat, or improvements.

All you see that the money has been used for are more personnel, vehicles, parks, nature paths, boats, snow groomers, docks, road closures, (some that lead to trails) more paperwork and regulations. Now that the F.G have expanded so much personnel wise and acquired so much equipment vehicles etc.

It feels it deserves new large building's to house themselves to be able to do a better job. When the fish and game can't do a descent job now how do they expect to justify new buildings.

Little concern with; canopy cover, winter range, population, management, enforcement of regulations, trails, and road closures. To me they've left the wildlife out in the cold to fair as best it can. Instead of an deep study on the archery hunter, the fish and game should indeed step back and look at its structure and lack of ability to use it's resources and not abuse it's responsibility due the wildlife. Why cut the wildlife short? It seems every study or anything that they do hurts the natural progress of the wildlife from fish and bears, just everyone of them.

Why can't they do something right once for a change.

Having lived in Mont all my life, and seeing what it was and how it has been abused by just common neglect by both the F&G and the Forest Circus it just makes one sick. I as one feel so helpless in any attempt to change any of it.

What about how many elk the hunter saw but never could or passed up a shot at. As for me (12) one a 7X7 twice because of no vital shot offered. One animal that just seeing made my season a success even though I was unsuccessful this year.

I feel the fish and game has done nothing with the money I've paid over the last 18 yrs. for archery, habitat, game management. I really feel discriminated against when I have to pay for the privilege to carry my bow in the woods, the rifle muzzle loader, shotgun hunter just buy a deer-elk tag etc. while I have to have a arch. stamp and lic. to hunt.

Where has the money gone no archery or gun ranges more state and fed. land being closed to the public use. More and more regulations. Higher fees for all lic. with no money going to wildlife management for all these years past. And now for all of the fish-games lack of foresight the hunter is the one that loses. To me, all the fish and game has been concerned about are the dollars, now they want new headquarters built. More \$ down the tube, what about the wildlife?

1) Like I said turkey hunting ruins bowhunter chances by getting them riled 2) I would like to see the SOB who cuts fences/drives all over private land etc. be fined BIG, be sentenced for some jail time and that be put in the papers. 3) We had a huge deer kill off last year by hunters, what deer were left many died of that lung disease-yet-this year it was again 2 deer and even the FWP encouraged greater hunter expectations (especially the money spending out-of-staters, you people seem to care more for the money than managing the populations, and no one is doing a thing to stop those hunters who ruin it for all. I love to hunt and I care about my animal friends-do you? This year I almost had to give up hunting because I couldn't afford it and the places I could hunt are just about NIL.

Please tell me what the money from licenses is use for. And why you keep saleing doe licenses for eastern Montana. With deer pop. down.

Local bow asso. members, land owners and F&G biologist recommendations are not taken seriously. Aggrement at tentative meetings and then done opposit at commissionlevel. Spend less money on buildings and put money to better use improving wildlife population and quality.

Many of our small, isolated elk herds are affected by archery pressure other management ideas such as gun or bow, drawings, etc. need to be implemented on a trial basis. I sincerely believe that business opportunities like archery promoters and outfitting have begun to change Montana hunting opportunities for the worse!!

My friends and I are avid hunters of all species during both rifle and archery season. Some of us own property on which we hunt and therefore get a chance to observe wildlife all year around. We all agree along with many others that the Fish and Games Management should be questioned.

Most archery hunting is good. I think with the deer population the way it is a archery hunter should be able to purchase a deer tag for archery and keep his rifle tag. I feel the state and the dept of fish wildlife and parks is getting to commercialized. Not just in archery but all hunting. They don't support your average resident hunting permits. Also promoting pay hunting, no access to public or private land and guided hunts. Yet we live here and pay the taxes.

Dept. needs to publish more information on bow hunting statistics and comparisons with general rifle season. Needs to be a better dialogue to answer questions on impact or game populations, wounding losses, economic contributions by archers, etc. There is a growing anti-archery sentiment based largely on misinformation or lack of comparisons with rifle hunting statistics.

Not being allowed to hunt elk in 690 during archery season is unfair. The local representatives at the F&G dept. say it is the wish of the landowners. This is obviously a B.S. story as many landowners in 690 allow me to archery hunt during the regular archery season. I would like a better explanation!

I'm glad to see that there are people in our fish game dept. that are interested in the hunter rather than just the outfitters.

The dept. of fish and game should be more interested in wildlife, wildlife habitat and recreation for the citizens of Montana and other visitors rather than in justifying their existence by increasing fees and writing false game violations. From the people that I have talked to the Fish and Game has little respect from the citizens and sportsmen of Montana.

In my opinion, the Montana dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is a joke, an expensive joke.

I can't believe you are even thinking about shortening the season, you charge us more than any other season, and give us less, you guys really have some ----- . For once why don't you sit down and do the right thing, if there ever was a group of sportsman that care about the game in which they hunt it is the archer. Give us a season, with its own tags.

I don't belong to any archery or rifle club. Because the general hunting person needs aren't met, just the needs of that club. I

also think the F&G commision are out for themselves also. I would like to share my ideas with someone in person, not in a letter! Something is definitley wrong HERE.

State and federal government agencies and Farmers and Ranchers in my opinion are most resposnble for the low populations of wild animals, and it is obvious and for obvious reasons it si also typical that a survey such as this chooses to ignore or is unaware of the obvious. And confuses itself with limited shallow considerations.

I would hate to think anyone would want to take away area's or length of season from bowhunters. I understand that some public officials hate bowhutners but I'm one and I'm proud of it. We are not all slob hunters and deserve the individual rights and freedoms the constitution has given us.

I am not a really dedicated bow hunter, but I can see nothing to really complain about. I do think it is ridiculous the way the F,W, P are playing around with rules and regulations.

I think that we should have more game management and less studies, surveys, for all the years of studies Ect. I think its time we start seeing some positive results. Lets have something besides, higher fees, more wardens, less days to hunt. and closing more areas. Lets start serving all mont sportsman and not special interest groups.

I would like to see the regulation requireing evidence of sex being naturally attached to the carcass made exempt during archery season for elk, inareas where licenses are valid for either sex. Considering the usual warm weather & size of the elk, along with the increasing number of walk in only areas, often times completely boning & backpacking the meat out is the only logical & expediant choice. Having to prove evidence of sex when both are legal seems unnecessary.

I am satisfiied with the way Fish & Wildlife is handling the hunting season. I like the way Rich Desmoine is handling area 380.

I am pleased that bowhunter education will be manatory!!!

Allow no gun hunting of any kind in archery season! Kind of disappointed in our states elk & deer management. They wait until it's too late then do something drastic about the population would like to see more trophy animals! Would like to see wolves band from Montana as they aren't game animals, Wolves as we can't hunt them, and they have a severe affection the populationof deer & elk. I know I hunt the North Fork of Flathead River would like to see the North Fork archery only as the population of deer & Elk is very very low! The check station in the North Fork was only open on week-ends in gun season so you have no idea what

came out of there during the week! In fact I know more animals were taken during the week days!!! Close the logging roads Aug 15. or at least by Sept. 1. Do all of these things in 1988 and I won't mind paying more for a achery stamp.

P.S. Why don't you make the envelopes the same size for the return mail!

State Fish and Game letting a small groups of people. and. on clubs dictate regulations for their own personal gain, they are trying to elimiate competition at the sacrifice of the majority of the hunters. which are. not organized. and your (Fish & Game) lack of thinking reflexes on you size, of letter haveing to be foled. agin to fit into your envelope.

I think the Fish & Game really dont care about our Elk population. All that matters it seems is the Big money from out of state. I would like to see Elk transplanted in more locations with lyr closures so they could better adaptd not be sitting ducks now knowing which way to run when rifle hunters approach & shoot. Lodgepole thickets should be thinned or burned allowing more feed. More roads should be closed during rifle season for protection of animals. Also every car, pickup, jeep, rifle etc used for poaching should be confiscated & sold to the highest bidder with proceeds to be used for Elk transplanting and warden enforcement. If we don't build our herds we will only see permit hunting with no animals to shoot.

Hunting in Montana has become more and more difficult with added laws, rules and road closures. I hope the Fish & Game doesnt forget we the sportsman are the Fish & Game. Without hunters we dont need a Fish & Game!

When I put in for 1st & 2nd choises and get 3rd choise and find out that 1st choise was not filled I think that stinks on your part. I think you should be looking at your people for these so called mistaked in which the hunter has no recall on.

I am surprised that you feel the Bow hunters harvest so many animals that we are threatening our Big game in montana-And I feel the only reason you're attempting to higher our hunting licenses not to slow bowhunters but to fill your own pocket. Every boudy knows you really don't care.

Bow hunting should be moved ahead and black powder should be brought in.

If you kill a deer with a bow you should still be able to kill a deer with a rifle.

All the monies collected from hunters in Montana and not much is spent on the hunter and gaining them access to private lands- plenty spent on ways to keep him off lands (machines to make shotgun sounds giving to farmers to keep ducks of thier land, no

need to let hunters on there).

our Right to Hunt the Game animals of the state should come before the Rights of the State officials to pay themselves and spend money on useless ventures : Buffalo fences in yellowstone. Increasing the cost of out of state licenses would be proper, if they really want to hunt they will pay the price.

I feel the time is right for Montana to step ahead with some of the conservation ideas at hand - before we're sorry we didnt. Some actions which are the best for the game aren't necessarily loved by hunters - But in the long-run scheme of things we are managing for the game animals. Aren't we ???

Too many people in Helena and not enough in the field.

If you need job security then why dont you spend more time fighting with the Forest Service than trying to change hunting laws?

I feel the FW&P department should quit managing for \$\$ and start to pay attention to the game populations

I find it hard to believe that some of the questions are even being considered in Monatana. It seems to be another example of the Fish & Game decisions being determined by outfitters and other special interest groups.

IN YEARS PAST I HAD ALWAYS HUNTED THE TETON SPRINGS BIRD REFUGE RIGHT OUTSIDE CHOTEAU BUT IN 1987 WAS REFUSED PERMISSION IN THE WHOLE AREA I WAS WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED??

I think that fish + game should discus more with the general public of there doings and work more with sportsmen clubs, state lands, champion lands, and forest service lands department before everything is over managed.

I think Fish and game should concentrate alot more on fishing. In the last 5 years the north were part of the states fisheries have declined terribly. While Eastern and South Eastern parts of the state are doing very good.

I hope that the Fish and game continues to show an interest in the needs of the archer as it is the greatest hunting opportunity available today,

My confidence in the Fish & Game would be greatly increased if they were legitimately open-minded when they solicit public comments on their proposed options for game management. Many officials seem to be very defensive of these proposed options and try to justify their primary choice, rather than listen with an unbiased attitude at these public meetings, when this is the

case, you are not proposing options, instead you are telling us what you are convinced is the best management option while challenging the public to beat your data with all we have to offer -our own observations in the woods, which don't seem to mean much compared with your sometimes shaky scientific data which is collected under very uncertain and uncontrollable standards that are mostly based upon your suppositions and your own personal theories..-none of which are really able to be classified as sound scientific data bases.

I rest my case....

Thank you for listening....I hope I have not offended you.

The Enterprise Editor

Dear Sir:

I received a survey questionnaire from the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, entitled, 1987 Montana Archery-Harvest and Preference Survey. In this survey were a number of questions which led me to respond with serious misgivings about the attitudes and directions of the Dept. These are the questions: (responses are favor, oppose and no opinion)

- a. Hunters would have to choose to hunt either by rifle or by archery each year, and would not be allowed to hunt by both methods.
- b. Archers would be able to hunt only one species each year, deer or elk or antelope (their choice)
- c. Archers would be required to choose one hunting district to hunt in, but would be allowed to hunt all species that live in that district (except moose, sheep and mt. goats).
- d. The cost of archery licenses would be increased to twenty dollars in order to reduce the number of people who archery hunt but who are not serious archers.
- e. The cost of archery licenses would be increased to \$8 with \$2 being dedicated to purchase and/or improvement of wildlife habitat.
- f. Archery licenses would be limited in number and issued by drawing only.
- g. The archery season would be limited to 2 weeks.
- h. The archery season would be lengthened by 2 weeks by adding a post season hunt.
- i. The archery season would be shortened by one week to provide a two week break between the end of the archery season and the opening of the general rifle season.

Another question asked was, "Should all hunters be required to buy big game licenses(stamps) and tags before opening day?".

All of these proposals I oppose, except letter h above. Not only are these ideas restrictive, but both ludicrous and noxious to the hunter who takes game to feed his family. I do not want to wade through miles of red tape just to go hunting. I am interested in retaining the freedom to behave in a reasonable manner under reasonable and common-sense laws. Could the attitudes behind these proposals be coming from the loathesome philosophy that people need to be controlled, and therefore governments and agencies spring into existence, and therefore miles of regulations and people become over controlled, over governed and over regulated. This is happening already globally. The Soviets are experts at it. This country is headed into dangerous waters. Big government is the disease. If people at the local level can keep its local agencies from making mistakes, it is at least a step

in the direction of maintaining our present freedoms.
Let us not have this Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and
Parks create more regulations, especially where they are not
needed, because of the absurd need to keep themselves busy
intellectually, or because of the bureaucratic mind-set to
find ways to control people. Instead of dreaming up management
theories, do nothing unless something absolutely needs to be done.
"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"
In our Constitutional Republic we govern ourselves. The government
and all its branches are our servants. We pay them good money
and expect common sense in return. Let us remember to disallow
our servant entities to put the bureaucratic squeeze on us.

PART II #6

NO- IN JUST A VERY FEW SHORT YEARS, IT WOULD SHORTEN OUR SEASON FROM WHAT IT IS TODAY, DOWN TO ONE OR TWO WEEKS. AND "TIME SPENT AFIELD" IS THE NUMBER ONE REASON REAL ARCHERS HUNT. A CROSSBOW IS TO DEADLY ACCURATE AT TO GREAT A DISTANCE TO EVER BE EVEN CONSIDERED IN ARCHERY SEASON.

PART II #8-A

I HOPE THE "EITHER/OR" SEASON WOULD BE ACROSS THE BOARD, EITHER HUNT EVERYTHING WITH A RIFLE OR BOW BUT NOT BOTH. IT COULD BE SPLIT, HUNTING DEER WITH A BOW AND ELK WITH A RIFLE OR VICE-VERSA, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE NEAR AS EFFECTIVE. IN FAVOR-REASONS: [A] TO REDUCE ARCHERY HUNTERS BY MAYBE 80%.

[B] TO REDUCE RIFLE HUNTERS BY MAYBE 20%.

[C] IF 80% OF THE ARCHERS QUIT, THE GAME LOSS WOULD DROP BY MAYBE 90-95% BECAUSE THE PEOPLE THAT QUIT REALLY SHOULDN'T BE HUNTING WITH A BOW ANYHOW. THE PEOPLE THAT STAY IN DON'T TAKE LONG SHOTS, ROAD HUNT, MEAT OR GLORY HUNT, AND FOR THE MOST PART THEY KNOW WHAT THERE DOING, THEREFORE HUNTER FOR HUNTER THEY LOSE MUCH LESS GAME, PERCENT WISE OR ANY OTHER WAY.

[D] GAME LOSS, WEATHER BY ARCHERY, RIFLE, ROAD KILLS, POACHING, OR THE WEATHER WILL TO SOME DEGREE ALWAYS BE WITH US NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, OR LAWS WE PASS. THERE NUMBERS, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WILL ALWAYS HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR, AND THAT MEANS IN WITH OR HARVEST NUMBERS. SO BY FAR THE GREATEST BENEFIT [ALTHOUGH HIDDEN] IS THE GREAT REDUCTION OF ARCHERY LOSSES ON OUR BIG BULLS BY MAYBE AS MUCH AS 85-90% OF WHAT IT IS NOW. I TRULY BELIVE IF THE NUMBER OF LOST BIG BULLS CAN'T BE LOWERED AND LOWERED DRAMATICALLY AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, THEN WE WILL IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE LOSE OUR BULGEL SEASON.

[D] WHEN YOUR SURVEY IS COMPLETE AND THE NUMBERS TALLIED, I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE AREA OF 85-90% OF THE ARCHERY PERMIT HOLDERS ANSWERED THE QUESTION OF THE EITHER/OR SEASON AS OPPOSED. OF THE FEW PEOPLE I TALKED TO ALL WAS OPPOSED UNTIL WE TALKED IN DEPTH, THEN THEY CHANGE THERE MIND TO, IN FAVOR. I THINK YOU COULD GO INTO A ROOM WITH A HUNDRED PEOPLE THAT WAS OPPOSED AND EXPLAIN THE BENEFITS IN DEPTH, AND I'LL BET 80% OR MORE WOULD THEN CHANGE THERE MIND TO IN FAVOR. A QUESTION LIKE THIS MOST PEOPLE WILL ANSWER SELFISHLY AT FIRST, BUT IF SOMEONE EXPLAINS IT THOROUGHLY, MOST PEOPLE WILL CHANGE THERE MIND.

PART II-#13- I THINK MISSOULA DOES WHAT THEY CAN, BUT AT SOME HIGHER LEVEL THEY DON'T CARE AT ALL ABOUT THE QUALITY OF HUNTING, WEATHER ARCHERY OR RIFLE. THE ONE AND ONLY GUIDE TO THERE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS IS MONEY.

MONEY IS THE ONLY REASON THERE IS 17,000 NON-RESIDENT PERMITS IN MONTANA, IT IS NOT BECAUSE IT'S BEST FOR THE GAME OR FOR THE HUNTERS. THEY SAY THAT THEY HAVE TO KEEP THE GUIDES & OUTFITTERS HAPPY, THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE. WHY NOT CUT THE 17,000 PERMITS IN HALF TO 8,500 AND CHARGE DOUBLE. MAKE GUIDES MANDATORY FOR NON-RESIDENTS. THE GUIDES WOULD GET MORE CLIENTS, THE STATE WOULD LOSE NO MONEY, AND THE HUNTING WOULD BE MUCH LESS CROWDED. WILE WERE ON THE SUBJECT, I CAN'T SEE HOW THE FISH & GAME CAN GIVE THERE ALL, TO THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR GAME, AND AT THE SAME TIME CARE FOR ALL OUR PARK'S.

with hope for the future

10. INEXPERIENCED/UNQUALIFIED BOW HUNTERS. SPORTSMANSHIP. BOW HUNTER CERTIFICATION/EDUCATION. WOUNDING OF WILDLIFE.

This was my first year hunting with a bow and I like it. I wouldn't shoot a cow or calf and never had a real good close shot at a bull. The thing that bothers me the most is the amount of elk that are hit with a bow and lost. I know of 11 elk among some of the people I know that were shot and lost.

I only get archery license so I can be out in woods get exercise and check out animals. Half of the time I don't even take the bow. Too many inexperienced bow hunters running around; shooting and crippling animals, 75 yards or further.

Bowhunting is becoming very popular. There seems to be a large amount of inexperienced hunters afield. This leads to hurt animals bad publicity for bow hunting.

Some sort of proficiency test should be set up so people can't go out and buy archery license and equipment and be archery hunters the day before the season opens.

Education for the unseasoned hunter is a must.

I work for USFS and was in Calif. on fire assignment for the entire month. I usually average 15+ days hunting for elk and deer. The district I hunted most was 300 in 1986. I spent approximately \$1000 on archery hunting in 1986. In 1986 I hunted in HD's #300, 302, 325, 328, and 329. Hunting District #324 should never have been closed.

Need to education bowhunters. Too many "bow shooters" take unethical shots. Especially at elk. Need to educate these people on what is required for a killing shot! Close range (< 30 yds.) + proper angle = dead elk. Hunters should not have too choose between weapons since they are only allowed one animal. Bow hunters pay twice the price to have privledge to hunt with bow, but don't harvest any additional animals for that license.

I think there are too many archery hunters out there who just hunt during archery season so they can hunt longer per year. Alot of these hunters don't take the time to practice shooting their bow and honing their hunting skills. I personally hear of a lot of bad shots taken every year by unskilled bow hunters. I also hear about a lot of wounded animals. I would like to see

the hunters have to choose archery, or gun. As per #8(B) of the questionnaire. Or as per #8(A).

Many people think that archery is just taking pot shots at animals hoping to get one. I have spent many hours perfecting

my archery skills for hunting. Most archers I know don't take those difficult shots, they don't want to just wing an animal and leave it.

Questions 8,9,10 are questions that need to be addressed. There are many people who call themselves bowhunters who have no idea what it means. I don't know how many "bowhunters" I talk too that tell you about the 80 - 100 yard shot they had. If they have shot at all they would know that 80 - 100 yard shots are pure ignorance of bowhunting. These are the people who don't pass up poor shots waiting for the good one. They just shoot hoping that they'll hit something! Most bow hunters that actively shoot year round will rarely shoot over 45 - 50 yards. Some type of archery education needs to be started. And there are many good archery clubs that can help these people get started on the right foot. There's more to archery than dusting off the old bow once a year, and heading for the field. I know many excellent archers who consistently shoot 270 - 290 out of 300 weekly who would never even think of taking an 80 yard shot. It's always the few that ruin things for the many, these are the ones that shoot at any target not knowing capabilities or limitations of a bow, they are the ones that wound game only to leave them to waste. Lets get an education system going so that we all can enjoy a wonderful sport.

Q 7 part 2: I think all hunters should be tested on accuracy from different yardages, also on range finding. It is important not to guess at distance arrows drop off quickly and bad shots get made because many archers don't pay more attention. I only got to shoot one time this year because I waited for the proper shot. I think all archers should take time and wait for the best shot possible.

Bow hunting can either be an asset to Montana or a liability and I think it is important to know your capabilities. Too many time I think under experienced bow hunters take low probability shots.

I feel an archer must pass an accuracy test before stepping foot in the field.

I'd like to see the elimination of non-serious bowhunters. I feel that bowhunting takes a fair amount of skill and that a person should take plenty of time to develop these skills.

I think seminars in tracking wounded game would be good for all hunters and that all hunters be educated on how far they can shoot to make clean kills. Rifle hunters get the opportunity to see dead game left by bowhunters but usually only the elements see the game left by rifle hunters.

I think that the biggest problem with most archers is that they

are poor marksmen. Money will buy you a license and the bow, but it doesn't make you a good hunter or shot. I feel that legalization of crossbows might improve the ability of the average archer to hit his target. I would like to see bugling outlawed. Too many people are doing it and the bulls are becoming wary of answering the calls.

Archery hunting is fun and a chalange - but most of the areas have low elk population especially in the Salteese area in the last ten years. Also I feel archers should pick there shots before shooting because alot of animals are hit and not killed and run off to dye maybe days later.

\$20 seems a bit steep for a license, \$10 -\$12 would. Thin out the nonserious archers and reduce wounded animals hopefully.

I don't see any problems with season or regulations. The biggest problems I see are inexperienced hunters taking bad shots and not making effort to track game.

I think there should be something done to eliminate or low the number of inexperienced archers. Maybe raising the price to \$20 for an archery stamp would cut out the hunter who aren't serious.

I feel that if hunters, mainly archery hunters, had to be educated that two things ought to be high in priority are, 1) proper shot placement, 2) the ability to track a wounded animal.

I see that archery hunting has increased dramatically in the last few years since I started. This I feel is a good sign for people who enjoy to archery hunt. At the same time I see a need for some education coarse required for bow hunters. Some bowhunters who I met out in the woods didn't seem to take careful precautions for the circumstances. Thanks for sending this questionnaire to me to allow my thoughts to be expressed.

It's bull___ the way people never practice all year, or go out and buy a bow a couple days before season starts and think their bow hunters. This has to be stopped to many animals are getting wounded and getting away just to die later, just because of stupidity. This has to stop.

I have heard of numerous types of game law violations during archery season, and the biggest is game being shot with a rifle. If someone wants to hunt with a bow they should have to complete a competency course with the equipment they use in order to buy a (license) stamp.

I like the archery regulations as they were in 1987. I hope you do not change them unless you add a shooter proficiency test. I realize such a test would be hard to administer, but wish it could be implemented to eliminate archery hunters that can't

shoot accurately.

I'm 18. The guys my age are flicker stickers. They hunt with bows that are junk and shoot 50 yards, can't hit a 6 inch black at twenty yards. We really need to stop this.

There are too many bow hunters who are not serious enough about the sport. They shoot at to great of distances and are poor shots to begin with. Go to an either or archery season.

I think they should due away with archery hunting because all it does is wound animals. It's a fun sport but their alot of animals wounded by bow hunters.

I believe that better education of a bow propose use, and knowledge of limitations due to the use of a bow is very important, and is at this time very inadequate. We need to teach hunters common sense when attempting a shot becuae too many poor shots are taken.

Would really like to hunt on the Reservation. More restrictions would be harmful to the sport but things need to be done to decrease the number of hunters who have never (seldom) shot a bow prior to hunting season.

Hunter that take bad shoots at elk should not be able to hunt with a bow.

I as a landowner with land with archery only, I see both side of hunting. I see the good bow hunters and bad hunters. I thing thers should be a test to pass before hunting.

I feel there should be an accuracy test for all archers. I work hard at shooting a bow. I don't miss left or right and hit animals in the neck or ass. If I miss, it will be high or low over the vitals. This year, the bull elk let me shoot two times, both arrows passed two inches appart through the heart. It took three years to get this one shot. Any responsible archer would not object to an accuracy test before licensing.

I think bow and gun hunters both should have to meet some sort of competency test with their equipment before being able to purchase a hunting license.

I have been happy the past two years as far as elk numbers in HD's 631 and 632. My only complaint of the 1987 season in HD 631 was that some hunters would never give some elk a chance to quiet down after a sneak. I had two instances where I had been waiting for elk to quiet down and maybe lay down in order for you to stalk them and had on one, 3 pickups come screaming past me and spook the elk thus they kept after them until they chased them right out of our hunting district. It wasn't until the last

two weeks of the season where I found elk that were calm enough to stalk them.

I enjoy the archery season very much! I would like to see more funds directed towards habitat. I don't believe either-or is the answer - but I feel bowhunter education should be mandatory with emphasis on short range shots - less wounding and following blood trails and finding hit game.

The current regulations seem to be good except for hunter safety education for bow and arrow. I also believe that any reduction of the season would be hard on those of us who generally do not use vacation time away from work to hunt.

I have lived in Montana and hunted elk for 25 years now, in that time the elk population in this area (districts 100, 101, 105) has increased dramatically. I don't feel that stricter regulations are called for. the single thing I dislike most about archery hunting is the number of inexperienced and poorly equipped hunters who take unacceptable shots with inferior equipment and wound and cripple big game animals.

7(f) I am appalled at the number of game animals wounded but usually then hear the hunter brag of hitting a "running shot" or a "60 yard shot" and "stuck one" - One sees the same practices with 500 yard rifle shots out pickup windows etc., but with fewer wounded by poor practices.

8. Bow hunters move the animals surprisingly little in most areas - not true of heavy impact areas like Breaks of Missouri etc.

I strongly oppose the idea of a class being required to bow hunt for a younger hunter. This is an invasion of a beginners rights to enjoy a classic and very useful sport.

Bowhunting is a challenging sport to those who take it seriously. Unfortunately there are many "bowhunters" out there who are slobs - those who need, not only education but the experience that only they can get from actual hunting situations. If we can educate them properly then experience will take care of itself.

I think that the department should try to limit the amount of archery hunters. Maybe try to separate the true archery hunters from those that hunt just because they can, even if they can not hit the broad side of a barn with their bows.

I submit that some degree of regulations be initiated to assure an increase in archery ethic to somehow cut down on the amount of wounded animals during bow season primarily deer. People just don't follow up on their shots as they should.

I think archery hunt should be continue but all archer should be

require to take class and learn to shoot accurately in target. So any archer who ever aim for a shot must be right on the point. I don't like to see many animals stick with an arrow and moving around. That is a painful for a living things.

I wish there was a way to give licenses to only good sportsman that would only take a good clean shot and not wound so many animals. Sorry for being late I forgot about it.

There are too many people who are not prepared. This included taking care of meat in warm weather, not being a good shot (practice), not willing to track wounded animals or don't know how.

If there was a test for accuracy, the bow hunters that have just purchased bows or have not practiced enough would not be able to hunt. This would inhibit poor hunting habits and lessen hunting pressure.

The number of trophy elk observed has declined - even with branch antlered regulations. The number of bugling elk has declined due to hunter pressure. That is: less bull elk are bugling. Branch antlered regulation is an excellent regulations and should be expanded to a 4-point or better regulation for deer and elk.

The number one problem associated with hunting today is the lack of hunting etiquette. A testing system should be developed (similar to the system used in Sweden) where all individuals (regardless of age) would be required to undergo training in order to obtain a hunting license. This training would have to be renewed every four years. This training would be required for the archery season as well as for the general rifle season. Proficiency in hunter safety, sportsmanship, use of the weapon, etc. would have to be demonstrated by the potential hunter.

Bow hunter competence certification is needed. I know many who have wounded bulls but few who have actually gotten one. Way too many bulls are wounded.

Bow hunters have displaced the elk in my rifle hunting spots so severely in the last couple years that the elk are almost impossible to find. The bulls won't bugle like they used to. The bow hunting pressures is too heavy in certain areas.

Excellent idea for a survey. I feel that archery hunting is the best type of hunting but is not for everyone. Ethics and education for archery hunters are even more control than rifle hunting.

I believe strongly that the archery season for elk should be reduced, that an accuracy cert. program should be started along with hunter education. I further believe that part of the

greatness of Montana is the opportunity to have a variety of hunting opportunities, and this includes hunting with both rifle and bow.

The main problem with archery is that anyone can hunt. People that never even touched a bow are allowed to hunt which gives the 600 bowhunter a bad name. All archers should be required to take a course that covered use of safety, tracking wounded game, saving meat, proper technics of bowhunting - before being allowed to hunt.

I would like to see the number of bowhunters less. If we could somehow eliminate the hunter that doesn't practice and really has no idea of what dedication it takes to truly be called a bowhunter out of the woods. We would have less wounded game and a better repore with all people concerned.

In ten years of hunting, I have only shot three arrows, two complete misses and one score.

I think an archers hunting safety test is a must not only a classroom test but also a field test. I would also like to see the rifle or archery hunting law go into affect, but I've heard of other states that have gone to that law and later the archery season was closed all together. I don't want that to ever happen in Montana.

All archers should be required to pass a test. Bows and equipment should not be sold to someone a week before who has no experience. Bird hunters spook elk more than archers.

I passed up shots at 4 different elk this season. Two bulls and two cows. I felt that the extremely dry conditions coupled with a bad hit could increase the probability of losing the elk. Bowhunters need to do more policing of their own ranks.

Have taken bow hunters ed. course in Missoula "1987" - very good program. Early Sept. tempature questionable in some areas but beautiful time of year - will hold shot for right time and weather.

I haven't hunted with a bow yet because I haven't felt that I was good enuff. I need to practice more.

I feel some type of bow hunting qualification course and hunting methods and code of ethics should be met before an archer is allowed to bow hunt. We need to concentrate on better winter range, more of it, and less bother by men, dogs, and predators.

I believe that a substantial number of elk are being wounded and not harvested, making elk harvest data unacuret to kill data. I believe that this should be a top priority of the MDFW&P.

I would like to eliminate the archery slob hunter (hunters with no ethics, those that take a questionable shot) through education and perhaps a choice of either/or elk hunting. Right now I'm not sure if it would be the correct thing to do. More road closures need to be enacted to protect and make access more difficult I believe.

To many inexperienced bow hunters taking bad shots. Rogue outfitters not being curtailed.

A requirement to bow hunters to pass a bow hunting education course or a shooting skill course, may be something to think about.

The one main concern I have is the continued limiting possibilities that seem to be the trend in hunting opportunities these days - whether it be in road closures, sex limitations, point limitations, etc., especially considering archery season since the harvest is so minimal. We (the hunters) fund this management to a large extent and I for one don't like the thought of more limiting restrictions on my/our freedoms. I think the key to a better archery season is the requirement of all archery hunters to pass a bowhunters education course. I think this would weed out the unthoughtful, careless, and problem hunters or at least better them. I'm sure there would also be lot less wounded and or lost game.

Hope this helps. Archery is a great sport, but there are too many novice hunters out with dull broad heads and a general lack of skills needed. Consequently, many animals are wounded, lost and wasted, this really gives bow hunting a bad rap. Who knows what the answer is maybe a competency test, 3 out of 5 in the paper plate at 30 yds. or no bow license??

One of the major problems Montana bowhunters face each year is negative publicity - macho hunters bragging about shots missed, animals tracked but not found. We need to clean up our own act. Mandatory archery ed. would help greatly.

Also, I am not opposed to limiting elk/deer hunting opportunities, ie, make the bow/gun hunter choose. Same irresponsible slobs would be eliminated from the archery ranks - only serious archery sportsman would select the bow hunting option.

I feel a bow hunters education course would be in the best interest of the sport. I do not want our state to have so many regulations, where to hunt, drawing only, etc., because I feel with the gate closures, walk in hunting etc., and low people population, our elk herds are on a safe and stable course.

I am an avid bow hunter and sport shooter. I spend all season practicing and shooting my bow. I would like to see everyone that hunts with a bow to spend enough time with his (or her) bow to get good at shooting it. The animals you hunt deserve it.

The main thing I am concerned about today's archery is wounded and lost animals. Even friends of mine that are better than average hunters seem to hit quite a few animals they don't get. We need to make archers much more serious.

In 1987 I was in close and spooked four different bulls but they were right back the next day. There were at least six bulls and approx. forty cows that stayed in the drainage I was hunting all bow season. Opening day of rifle season I was back again at 8:30 am. I shot a 5x5 bull with one shot and the elk pretty much disappeared from the drainage. Due to this experience and similar experiences in the last five years, I don't believe archery hunting spooks elk out of an area.

I would like to see archery hunter certification required. I believe that would thin out the ones that don't practice and can't hit the broad side of a barn.

As a first year archery hunter I didn't attempt to take an elk with a bow. My self conviction wasn't as such as to take the risk of a wounded animal because as a guide for Montana I know the importance of a good clean kill, maybe next year.

I strongly feel that a bow hunter education class is needed. The nature of bowhunting makes it very easy for an animal to be wounded and left. Only responsible people should be allowed in the field. It should be harder to pass the bowhunter education class than the hunter safety class.

To acquire reasonable accuracy with a bow requires a lot of practice. It would be nice, but probably impossible to keep unskilled archers from attempting shots at game that is out of their accurate range, of course the same thing applies to rifle hunting.

Would really like to see all hunters (bow) attend and pass bow safety and etiquette course. I had several trips and opportunities ruined by ignorant and rude hunters.

I would also be in favor of a managed muzzle-loader season.

Although I've never killed an elk with my bow, I enjoy bowhunting twice as much as rifle hunting. There is a need for archery education class that provide safety, proper equipment and proper hunting techniques, so we can reduce wounded animals and personal injuries.

All archers should be qualified on target range. Grouse season should open in general season. No rifle should be carried during bow season or shotgun. 410 will shoot arrows from what I'm told.

I think the public should be educated how to use archery equipment properly (ie) sharpening of broadheads, knowing the capacity and shooting distance of bows. Also closing some of the roads on champion land.

I think an archery hunter should be tested on their shooting ability before receiving a license. I found 2 elk and 1 deer this rifle season with arrows in them. Both elk were hit in hind quarter. The deer was gut shot.

I cannot imagine how the Fish and Game can let a bunch of people go just to shoot at an animal. They must put a stop to all these people just being in the woods, shooting 50 and 60 yard shots and not caring if they wound an animal or not. The only way to get good serious hunters is a choice between seasons.

I feel there is getting to be too many people out archery hunting for elk. In my opinion most people are not proficient with the bow nor do they have the tracking knowledge needed. A test should be required before a license is given. Also the cost of a license should be greatly increased. Another problem is tribal members from the Flathead Reservation bugling in elk on Forest Service land and shooting them with rifles.

Six dollars to hunt elk with a bow is ridiculous. You are giving away a valuable natural resource too cheaply. There are many elk getting stuck running off and dying. I have found quite a few while hunting. Lets get rid of the nonserious hunter. Raise the cost and effort required to get a license. Lets see who is serious.

We need to find non oppressive ways to control the type of archer hunter. We have too many who don't know the sport and can't shoot and are not careful. Need to eliminate the casual hunter. Education, testing, increase fees, but don't take away the archers right to hunt with a gun.

I think that if necessary the price for archery stamps should be raised to help pay for bowhunter education and maybe pay for literature about the importance of practice, good shots, sharp broadheads, etc. I also think if archery stamps were not sold after 6 or 8 weeks preceding the season people would at the very least have to think about bowhunting and practice before going out.

Why change something that is working?

What I would like to see, is mandatory archery lessons to teach

people how to shoot a bow. And get the motorcycles the hell out of the woods.

I think it is very important to try and weed out the bad sportsmen in this sport. The type which brag about how many animals they stick (with arrow) each year. I believe that a specialized course that would be required to take and pass before issuing an archery license is a great idea and would go along way in deterring some of the less responsible and sportsmenlike persons from starting up the sport. This idea should be implemented as soon as possible, but I would hope that it be readily available to anyone who may wish to participate. I'm not sure that a fee increase would help, but wouldn't hurt to try. If a fee increase doesn't limit archers, the extra money could always go towards paying the expense of the school or acquiring wildlife habitat.

I believe archery hunting is generally tough enough without shortening the season due to archery hunter increases and (bugle wise) elk. I believe new hunters especially "young" hunters should be put through a hunters safety course. I personally read for a year, went along with an archer for one season (without my bow) and practiced my archery skills for a year before ever "hunting" with my bow. I salute you for wanting to understand us "archers" and where our concerns lie. Please keep up the good work. And it is possible to find out the results of your survey.

I hear too many stories of archers out tracking elk because they have taken a poor shot. Neither was found as far as I know. Maybe archer education would help but I don't think so.

Obviously, you can see my concern for the increased number of non-responsible bowhunters in the field these days. Something has to be done to limit the numbers for these individuals who don't understand the serious nature of bowhunting and what little to no margin of error exists with bowshooting compared to rifles. You would not believe the amount of wounding going on out here.

I would like to see a bowhunter education course required in Montana including a shooting test required every three years. If failed, no bowhunting until he or she qualifies. Also I'm glad to see Montana taking interest in what is going on with archery hunting.

I think that you shouldn't have to take classes to hunt with a bow. Because I have to take a class if I want to hunt.

The only thing I feel wrong with archery hunting now is the people who hit an animal and won't track it if it doesn't die instantly.

The biggest problem with archery season is too many amateurs not

knowing how to shoot or track and rifle hunters using the season as a way to illegally hunt animals. Raising prices will not help, but better control over who buys archery stamps is.

Willful, selfish, casual bowhunters give archery a bad reputation. Somehow, legal aged (adult?) hunters wishing to bowhunt have to be educated and exposed to archery hunting techniques in order to insure development or their skills, success, and enjoyment. Archery on a lark has got to stop. The method of tradition deserves more respect than its getting. I might add that I took the bow hunters course with my son 5 years ago. What I learned then is still with me, still with us both. the most valuable lessons learned were ones following: safety skills, hunter's ethics, shoot only within effective range (most important), develop your range, and practice.

This survey is a good start to improving archery hunting in Montana. Better education for first time bow hunters is necessary.

Quality elk hunting presently exists in Montana. Since bowhunting's popularity has increased dramatically many amateur hunter have bought bows - poor sportsmanship is becoming more evident. I feel all bowhunters must first be educated. They must understand and execute proper shot placement and keep cool heads while trailing wounded animals - bowhunter education courses should help bridge this gap. At current levels, I don't feel that bowhunting needs to be more intensely managed. It's my opinion that the MT Dept of FW & P is to quick to model its management programs after other states such as Colorado.

I also feel that off road and closed roadviolaters should be pursued and prosecuted with more fervor.

I would also like to see the results of this survey published and distributed to the participants.

The Fish and Game whould require a course on tracking wounded game, as I have come upon a lot of unclaimed down game!

My main concern with archery hunting is the number of wounded bull elk. I know many people who do not wait for the right shot and consequently the bull gets away with a arrow in it. I wish I had a suggestion as to how to alleviate this problem, but I don't. The responsiblity lies with the archery hunter.

This is a good survey and worthwhile information. It would be helpful to concentrate on the wounded animals lost and ways to help that problem - education and accuracy tests before licensing.

Management decisions must be based primarily on biological

feasibility first, then popularity and practical reasons. It's too bad also that we can't make education of all bowhunters mandatory and find a way for landowners to know how to recognize what makes a competent bowhunter. This would go a long way in policing the ranks, the same applies to rifle hunting. PS, I'm a gunsmith's son who loves archery too.

Feel very strongly that there should be a proficiency test required, prior to obtaining an archery license - too many hunters can't shoot.

I would favor stricter standards for archery hunters, ie. being able to hit a designated target at 30 yards as a requirement. Archery hunting education may also be needed.

Require all hunters to put name and address on ones arrows! Archery hunter should have to pass a test with the equipment they will be using.

Hunter education should be emphasized more. Hunters should be better prepared for this type of hunting.

Bowhunting has increased dramatically in the past 5 years. But if you spend the time and hunt serious there is still good game in Montana. There is one main thing that interests me. One has become more evident in the past two years. There is to many bowhunters out there today who don't know what there doing. I watched five bowhunters on the first day of the season in 87 shoot at elk more than 70 yards away as they came out of a stubble field. I couldn't believe it. I didn't see any hit, but a six point bull was found two weeks later across the coulee with an arrow in it. The bull probably wasn't even followed up. Alot of these people are just out to fling an few aroows, drink beer and have a good time, they don't give a darn about what happens to the wildlife. And it sure makes it hard on other bowhunters. I think every year a person bowhunts they should have to complete a bow course before receiving a bow permit.

The most important improvement would be to eliminate the use of bull or cow calls. There are a number of mediocre hunters that are good callers. Without calling any animal obtained would require exceptional hunting skill and not deception. In addition the elimination of non-serious hunters would improve the sport. These hunters wound game (they shoot when they shouldn't) and push animals out of areas.

I like archery hunting as well as rifle hunting. In my opinion Fish and Game should devise a way to keep those people who do not practice shooting there bows out of the woods.

The bull-cow ratio is a problem, but I don't know what the solution should be, maybe close it to branch antler only.

There are too many K-Mart hunters who buy a bow and shoot only 1 week before season opens. Then there are those who carry a 44 mag along with their bow. We archers should have to pass a shooters test before we are able to purchase a license.

I think crossbows would ruin archery hunting. I think we need to weed out the people that get their bows out of the closet 2 days before opening day. Being a responsible hunter demands dedication.

Two years in a row I have passed up shots at 5 point bulls because the conditions were not just right. Even though I would have loved to have gotten them. I only wish other hunters would do the same if they risk only wounding their game.

I think there should be a very small limit on non-residents for drawing tags at 3 times the price.

There should be a mandatory test for all people on hunting skills and tracking and caring for game. Not many people know what the hell they are doing in the woods.

I think that we need to cut down on the long stupid shots that some archers make. We need good clear shots, we do not have rifles.

I believe the requirement of All Bow Hunters to pass a bow hunters education course before they are issued a license should be mandatory. This will eliminate those that buy a bow the day before season, then go out and sometimes wound an animal because of the practice necessary to become an accomplished archer.

I enjoy bowhunting for the challenge and enjoyment of nature at a favorable time of year, I do, however see many disturbances by inexperienced non-residents, road hunters, party mongers, and the like that DO disturb wildlife in a detrimental fashion. I feel there is no remedy for the situation at present, and am inclined as are many of my friends and family, to cease hunting (our only recreation) altogether.

I quit archery hunting because I feel a bow is not effective enough of a weapon in most people hands. 2 types of bow hunters - 1 that wounds a nice bull that later dies and one that will.

In my opinion Archery hunting is more of a challenge and requires greater skill than any other form of hunting. My only complaint would be that there are too many weekend Robin Hoods in the woods that can not find their hit animals. They should be required to pass the NBEP (National Bowhunter Education Foundation) test.

Question #10 on page 5 is an assinine question! I have never

seen this question on gun hunter surveys. Do you assume that bowhunters would too many animals? If so, you need to take a bowhunter education course.

Ref. Part III #1, I've been shooting a bow for five and a half years and until two and a half years ago I didn't feel responsible enough to attempt hunting. I've heard many a tale of beginner bow hunters who made bad shots and wounded game to have it die later. Also, I don't believe moose should be open to rifle at the start of bow season. I'd love to get my moose permit, but don't think I should have to compete with rifle hunters at the same time!

Questions II 7F and III 3., Some education should be given to all bowhunters regarding the limits on archery to kill an elk. Lost one bull elk by shooting it in the back above the shoulders from tree stand at < 10 yards. Second bull (1986) shot in scapula @ 25 yards, maybe six inch penetration. Found where woodcutters had field dressed him and hauled him away, one mile from where I shot him. I was to disgusted to hunt in 1987. If I had not taken a cow in 1981, I would say that killing an elk with 82# bow was nearly impossible (2219 XX75 arrows lose brute heads). Emphasis on vital areas that will kill any elk should be taught to all archery hunters who have not taken a big game animals with archery equipment! Include also, good penetrating heads and the power to get the job done. There must be some information and research somewhere on the best arrows, bows, and heads and their lethacity factor or KF on big game.

Archery hunting has decreased in the last few years. This, I feel, is due to poor hunter ethics, which is caused by people not really understanding the limitations of bows. An education program would greatly reduce this problem by 1) increasing Bowhunters knowledge 2) would weed out people who really aren't interested, or who aren't willing to give the time that ethical Bowhunting requires.

I wish there was a way we could regulate the amount of time that people spend searching for a wounded animal. Too many people wound animals and let them go with out a valiant effort to find them. It makes use all look bad.

I have never shot at a Elk with my bow. as I have never had what I considered a clear gaurented hit. I do believe bow hunters whould be tested periodically in order to minimize the amount of animals wounded by poor archers.

My one concern is people who don't practice and try shots they can't make. Most of these people are rifle hunters. I used to Rifle hunt now I don't, after Bow season I start Duck hunting and fishing.

Some kind of course should be offered for archers on tracking of wounded game which includes ranges or distances for shooting. I hear of too many archers who "stick" animals and fail to locate them. How unsportsman like! Yes?

I perty much am satisfied with the Archery Season and the game in numbers. I would like to see a coarse on eithics and curtisy for Bow hunts to pass and education is a must. Especuall for white tail hunting where during general season every body runs to 260 and 290 to hunt deer.

The area I hunt in, are 330, we backpack in. The immediate area is relatively roadless, and the very few roads there are closed. Last archery season I got one shot each at 3 different bulls. 1 2 year old small five point, one average six point, and one exceptional 6 point. We see on an average 4 to 5 branch bulls a day. We bugle in an average of 2 to 3 bulls a day.

I feel the fish and game dept. had done an exceptional job in the management of the elk, and wildlife as a whole. Whith the opening up of 324 again, we'll see a decrease in hunting pressure in alot of areas. Personally, I'll stay put in 330.

Bowhunter education is of paramount importance. I am a Bowhunter Education Instructor in our area, and I was glad to see it mandatory for '88.

Bowhunting has to be ethical, responsible, and sporting. Crossbows have a place, but its not in our archery season. The sport of bowhunting is the greatest sport in the world.

Archery hunting should have a safety course the same as a hunter safety course given for guns. There's alot of inexperience hunters (bow) that wound alot of game that shouldn't be.

I have been in Utah this winter and did not open this questionair until today. Sorry it's so late. I appreciate your concern for bowhunters in Montana. The Bowhunter test is a great idea and will surely benefit our organization. I would like to see more information on a bow/or gun season only before any action went into affect. I see nothing wrong with the season as it now stands. Bowhunting is obviously harder and the extended season is appreciated. Thanks for your concern.

I would like to see some way to qualify Bow Hunters. To stop the people who buy a bow day before season pick up broad heads and go hunting. I wish there was some way to check there ability. Like the base in Great Falls most buy a bow at discount place. Bows not fit to hunter a bow not tuned and I have hurd of them shooting 25 arrows in a week end hunt. I think that any place that sells bows should have some one there who could set these people up so that they could at least know what to do, and now what to expect. I have seen guys that are hunting that cannot even hold a 8" group with there bow at 20 yds. I know that most

could do a lot better if they had been set up properly with there equipment.

I know it would be hard to make archers stay after gut shot game but I wish something could be done, in all the yrs. I've hunted archery elk I've always gotten shots close range and the only elk I've stuck I tracke 12 miles to retrieve it. Without lose of meat. or the trophy. head.

I would like to see archers have to pass a skill test - too many animals are wounded by poor shots - Make hunters prove that they have the skills to go out there and hunt.

Although I enjoy both archery and rifle season, I am afraid the numbers of archery hunters has drastically increased. From what I understand, more animals are being wounded and will run the risk of infection and death. By requiring not just an educational requirement but a proficiency test, the number might be reduced while the quality of the hunter could be improved.

I spend alot of time practicing with my bow. This year a bull elk got away with my arrow in it after 12 hrs. by me and 6 hrs of looking by my dad we gave up. I would like to develop bow hunters (me too) to be deadly. This has never happened to me before but it really effected me when it did. I would like to see something available to teach tracking skills w/o snow and w/o blood by someone who really knows!

Why Don't you close our State To out of state Hunting Then we would have nore Big game animals for the Resident's to hunt you know the one's that pay Taxes. In 12 years, Hunting with a Rifle I've only got 3 permits 1 antelope 2 B tages know something funy that why I Hunt with Bow.

I personally think that to many Big bulls are taken with Bows and many wounded that later die because of Bad shots. I like to Bow hunt it is a hard changlend for a person to get a elk and I hope they put more effor in managment for larger Bulls By closing wither Spiks or Branch seasons. The progress has showed in the area of 380 in to years. more Branch Bulls than I have ever seen in that area in 13 years.

Of all the things that I see that bother me, The one the bothers me the most is other Archery hunters disrespect For landowners. I wish there was a way to get the slobs out of the Field. I feel there should be a skills requirement. Apparently they don't know the laws & aren't interested enough to learn them.

Too many people buy archery tags - don't practice, shoot from pick up - truck box ride around - drink, make excessive noise, shoot at every thing they see, bugle from vehicle & have no aprereation for serious hunting.

Overall I feel our seasons are fine, I do not believe we should increase season length unless landowners approve. I feel there are too many "Instant Bowhunters" Mandatory BH education and increased fees could combat this. The need for more branch antelered only seasons is obvious to most hunters I talk to - I own a bar and talk to plenty of them. Unfortunately this attitude apparently is not shared with/by FW&P.

In a whole I'm pretty satisfied with the current system of archery hunting in the state. Except I would like to see all new archers new to the sport. have to complete a hunters awariness & saftey course before Receiving a archery hunting license.

I've heard rumour about all types of things dealing with the hunting system in Montana. I feel that for the most part the system of management is fine. There is a few little problems that arise occationally, but that's expected. Please, I believe I speak for a lot of hunters in saying, don't change anything drastically, the problem lies in the hands of hunters to straighten out those who don't want to follow your guidelines.

I would strongly suggest that ALL bowhunters take bowhunter saftey - to many people have too little knowledge about hunting ethics and bowhunting. And thank you for taking the time and money to survey the bowhunters in Montana.

Hunter-Landowner relations are a big problem, for 2 reasons: 1. Landowners are unhappy people, because of the general state of the economy, and the times in general. 2. I didn't always, but now believe that more than 50% of hunters have inferior behavior, because of both ignorance, and destructive belief patterns. Lastly: There are too many hunters, but archery hunters have by far the least negative impact, on a per capita basis or otherwise. Questions #1 on page 2, and #1 on page 5 are too general to be of value.

I feel that all hunting fees, especially for firearm hunting should be raised, to create revenue to improve game population levels, and to reduce total number of hunters. I realize this is tending towards a rich man;s sport, but that's the way it's going anyway, and it may be the best way to insure quality hunting.

All archers should have to pass a shooting course to buy archers stamp. Too many people I've seen shooting at elk at 100 plus yards, I've talked to a lot who said they couldn't even hit a paper plate at 50 yds. I think we could reduce the number of hunters especially non-serious and reduce the number of wounded animals.

I believe that there are too many Archery hunters that are not properly trained, and they end up cripling animals and never

going after them.

Therefore, I feel that all bow hunters should be required to pass a bow hunters course in order to separate the serious Archer from the "something-to-do" type.

Why are there no questions on this survey concerning number of animals by specie that are wounded each year and not recovered? This is a big problem with big impact on elk, antelope, deer. Too many "arm chair" bowhunters are out there - require a proficiency test! I guide bowhunters, I should know.

Get the dead beats out of the field!!

Archery Hunting is a beautiful sport. Many "slob" archers are out there however. Make bow hunters pass a rigid test (skill) before a license is issued. Drop a week off rifle season & add it to archery.

I did take a moose w/my bow!

I feel that if I shoot at a animal I want it to be a clean kill thats why I have not shoot at one. This year I had 8 bull elk up to me and I didn't think I had a clean kill shoot so I didn't shoot.

I think more people need to think that way.

I believe there is a real problem with persons archery hunting without really knowing how or practicing at all. This problem causes many animals to be wounded and run off and die w/out being found, giving archers a bad name. I practice constantly from May-Sept. shooting approx 150 times/week.

I think that there is a large number of bow hunters that don't understand the art of archery - lots of practice & patience. They think its just 5 or 6 weeks of Bonus hunting.
THANKS for the questionnaire!

I would like to see Bow hunters that want to hunt have spent the time with there Bow to be abale to make good clean kills.
I feel a lot of Bow hunter's don't shoot enough.
Shooting test 20 yd's 30 yd's.

Part III Question 7. Elk are not bugling less but are certainly getting smarter about calls.

Part II question 8 (H&I) Shortening the current archery season by one week but adding a 2 week post season hunt gives a chance to hunt for rutting deer. Perhaps a one week closure between rifle & late season bow hunting.
A bow hunting education course required of all bowhunters would make us all better hunters and would help weed out those who are haphazard about bowhunting.

I Think Everyone should Have to be able to shoot a score of at

least 230 out of a possible 300 before he/she is allowed to purchase an archery stamp. I feel there would be less wounded animals this way. There should be a minimum draw wt. of 50 lbs. for bows.

I would like to see a archery test + shooting rest included. To many archers pull the Bow out of the Closet & go hunting not Being able to hit kill areas. This is my Largest Concern although I Believe it is not a major factor in Elk being wounded and then die. Road closures should be enforced through out archery too. I wouldn't mink seeing 2 week added to the beginning of season for Dear hunting. Statistics show there are are only small numbers of Elk killed by archers. (5% of Elk.) I don't believe there would be much or many taken 2 weeks before. This would give archers a chance, or more times to hunt deer.

Many hunters I have met while archery hunting are not a competent as they should be. Many would take a shot at any distance, most over 100 yds. Most people are not competent, because they don't practice. Some people I have met have jsut bought a bow and a handfull of arrows and go hunting. Although shooting at game is 10% of Bowhunting its still the most important. I have been shooting for 17 yrs. Only three years ago, I felt confident of trying to take game, then only in my limits of range, and waiting for the right shot.

I think Bowhunters ed. Course could stop alot of the senseless wounding of Game Animals. In the course should be a class on tracking. Most people shoot at an animal, pick up their arrow and if they find no blood, they assume they have missed. They should scan the area and follow tracks for a reasonable distance.

At times you don't see blood because the hit was high and the chest cavity has to fill first before the Blood begins to run from the wound.

Well you wanted comments, here are a few.

Archery season needs to be regulated so qualified people are in the field. In the increase of Archery Hunters, many use this time for takeing game illegally by guns. It is impossible for wardens to police the whole state. I believe an Archer must demonstrate his ability to place a shot with his bow.

I feel strongly that hunters should pass a bowhunters education course. It is important that a sportsman knows his equipment and how to cleanly kill an animal with bow and arrow. Too many hunters don't practice enough and wound animals. If a hunter isn't serious about bow hunting and won't take the time to track a wounded animal he shouldn't be hunting.

My bow hunting is done enitirely in the Breaks. We have on problems and I would love to be one of the only 4-5 hunters in

the whole place, but all in all I think were lucky to have such an opportunity to hunt as we do. I only wish there were n? way to prevent or discourage non-serious hunters and those too lazy to become proficient at shooting a bow from hunting elk. The number of elk wounded and lost each year a? those taking poor shots at an animal the size of an elk is an embarrasment to those of us who respect this regal game animal.

We need to ensure that we have quality hunters who do more good than harm to the sport. We need to either educate the new hunter or limit their numbers. Our "modern" day hunter buys stuff at k-mart and then rides around in ATVs/Motorcycles randomly bugling in (scaring) the herds.

I think a bow hunter education course should be mandatory. Every bow hunter should also have to prove that he or she is a good enough shot to be allowed to bow hunt. This should be done every year.

Too many people don't spend enough time practicing acuracy. They take long & bad shots that only result in wounded animals. If this sport is to survive in the future people must drag out their bows much earlier than a couple of days before opening day.

I think every hunter should have to learn how to take care of his or her game before even getting a hunting lasions. and also learned to track game they met.

There is a definite need to eliminate the poor archer and those not serious about archery hunting. I would favor requiring hunters to choose either rifle or bow, and then require bowhunters to meet a minimum level or proficiency up prior to being issued a permit.

Some Bow hunters I encounter need a course on the fact that 70+ yrd shots aren't the idea of Bow hunting. Getting close for the killing shot and enjoying the outdoors is why I enjoy Bow hunting.

Good questions

I think its about time that we hunters are asked our opinion on issues that really affect us. I think that archery season is getting better every year but we still need to educate people on the art of bowhunting not the sport of bowhunting.

I think its time we make it manatery to go to safty school for bow hunting, & to make it eithr or, let bow hunters hunt the whole season with the bow & gun hunter just 3 weeks in late season.

I have one comment regarding hunter Education for Archery as a Hunter safty Instructor. I don't think we should be expected to

teach this also. We have enough to cover in a short time. I think a separate class should be planned if this is to be taught.

I am very concerned about having to choose between bow hunting and rifle hunting. In spite of increased bow hunting pressure having to choose is bad policy. I pay extra to bow hunt. I am willing to pay more. The name of the game should be more opportunity not less. Keep in mind the bow hunting provides opportunity for many days afield without near the stress on game herds that result from rifle hunting.

I understand that there were a big number of Elk wounded in the 410 district, something should be done about preventing stuff like this.

Thanks for your concern in our needs and dislikes for bow Hunting.

There should be more stringent requirements for competency for all hunters including archers. A late bow season in more areas & less competition in areas with gun hunters. We also need closer regulation on outfitters & more access for foot access to N. forest.

The main problems I have encountered when bowhunting have been selfish "get-an-animal-at-all-costs" hunters. This I have seen w/regard to 4 wh dr hunters and even horsement who ride/bugle/ride/bugle without any caution.

I would like to see less bowhunters only if you could eliminate the un-ethical hunter. I don't think a 20.00 archery tag is enough to deter him. But a bowhunter education course just might. I would hope the dept. isn't even thinking of having to make the choice between bow hunting & rifle hunting.

I began hunting with a bow in 1975. I've killed 9 deer 2 bears Kept Bull Elk. I sold archery equipment for 13 years and the more involved I got with the sport, the more game, Elk in particular, I heard about that were hit and lost. I've shot 85 lb long bows compounds & recurves and sold all types of equipment and I know that a clean kill & recovery of an elk is a low % success bet.

Any self respecting hunter would love to see more game in his hunting area. I stand strongly opposed to mandatory bow hunters education course. I think the basics are now covered in the hunter safety course.

A deer bow hunt during the rut would be an excellent idea.

The only thing that I hate is the people who don't take time to take a good shot with their bows. Most people are not making good shots and are wounding their game, and are not following or trying to find the animal. So you start seeing animals wounded

or with arrows in them, limping or maimed for life or someone else gets them.

Since the popularity of archery is on the increase, serious consideration ought to be given about bowhunting ethics, ability, and knowledge - like a hunter safety course. Archery for bear hunting has poor opportunity - consider baiting.

A bow hunters education course requirement is desirable.

Poor hunters =

Too long shots taken at non vital areas

Too many "buglers" that bugles talk poorly & put elk off.

Would it be possible to require as hunter's ed. course for hunters (archery & rifle) who have not previously had a MT hunting license?

I am for increasing criminal penalties and enacting civil penalties, payable to MT F&G, against fish & game law violators. (i.e. poachers).

I think every archer should pass a field test and a class room test before hunting with a bow.

Too many people are buying bows just before hunting season, hunting deer & elk, not knowing any thing about bow hunting. This causing too many wounded animals in the field!

The Biggest Problem That I Can See, concerning archery In Montana, Is; There are too many bow hunters who are not proficient enough in the art of trailing wounded animals on bare ground. The second problem is, people who are not capable of using their equipment properly.

Is there any way to weed out the hunters that can not shoot to kill.

I feel there are too many archery hunters that are not properly trained & serious about it. They shoot at anything, take poor shots & wound game. Also too many people purchase licenses & tags after the season starts or after they kill something, or after their "wife" kills something. No tags should be sold after the start of a season.

In the last five years I have seen the number of archery hunters double. Many for the most part are ill equiped to hunt successfully. Many archers cannot shoot well enough to assure a good clean kill. However I realize that unfortunately happens in rifle season too. Where the answer to the problem is I don't know. We are getting more bugle shy bulls all the time. Again there is just more pressure. However I don't know where the answers are. I would like to continue to archery hunt, and to keep the quality up. Maybe an increase liscence fee would weed

out some of the least interested.

There is ample opportunity to hunt with a bow. The only real problem I have is with "slob" hunters that trespass, drive where they shouldn't etc.

I feel that there are alot of poor archers; bad shots and those who don't "pass up" enough shots. However, I've never been convinced that the % of poor rifle hunters isn't just as bad. Rifle hunters AND archers should be required to periodically prove their competency with their weapons.

Bow hunting is an important aspect of my outdoor recreation each year.

I would not like to see changes that would further restrict this sport.

I do believe some bowhunters are not qualified to hunt live animals, and some kind accuracy test should be given before issuing a license.

I don't believe I should have to pick between Rifle & Archery. The all terrain vehicles shouldn't be allowed in the backcountry they left the trails all over in area 361. No cow's should be taken. Just 4 point or better on bulls & also calves be allowed to be taken. I believe it takes at least 16-17 weeks in order to plan the time to fit in that span & still be able to be hunting during prime advantages in animal cycles.

Too many bun hunters are pushing for either-or type of hunting and their group have the funds to lobby for their project.

Hunter/safety trained archers will be better for hunting - as are hunter/safety gun hunters.

I feel that the addition non-resident deer license will allow extra non-residence to hunt elk putting that more pressure in elk hunting areas.

I also feel that for a better archery season that Bowhunter Ed. is the answer.

Archery elk hunters need more regulations & also perhaps a class on sportsman ship with regards to shot distances! Your deer hunting program is fine although I do not think the one week closure prior to rifle season is necessary! Thank you!

I've been shooting archery for 10 yrs and every year at least 3 different people come & ask for my assistance and it's always the same story: Maybe I'll get some shots, or It'll give me a longer hunting season. I try to teach them not to shot unless they know they will kill the animal and that is the way I was taught and believe.

None serious hunters and those with vehicles keep thinking they

can walk right up to game and shot and the people with vehicles come roaring into your area chasing game you've been following all day.

I would definitely like to see all archery hunter required to take a safety course, including passing a markmanship in shooting the bow of their choice to pass. This would help to cut down on non-serious hunters as well as the number of wounded & lost animals.

Part II #8 a&b. I would not be opposed to requiring hunters to choose which species to hunt with bow only. Be it only one or all species .

Part III #8&9&10, My answers could be mistaken as wounding an elk. In fact, 6x6 Sept 26> I killed and tagged 1 bull elk, After I had shot an arrow at a bull elk as a follow up shot after my partner made a lung shot on his elk on an earlier hunt.

5x6 Sept 19> I feel that archers wounding and failing to bag elk, game is a serious problem that we as a group should work to reduce to a minimum. In effect, weed out the slob hunters!

1. The biggest thing wrong w/archery is that dealers will sell Bows just before season and turn these people out w/no Test of Ability. Doesn't hurt the game much but Gives Archery a black eye - 2. Don't always favor the horseman - If you close an Area, Close it to horsemen Also. Youre giving them their own private hunting Grounds.

Overall archery hunting has been a good sport. More animals in population would be nice. Biggest complaint is that the "fair weather" archer can buy a bow one day and go toot his bugle the next and spook out the game. They take shots they shouldn't. They only hunt to extend their seasons. It would be interesting to declare archery or gun hunting only for a 1 year trial basis and evaluate the effects on hunter # and success %. It would be a good test. Thanks.

Many gun hunters are opposed to archery hunting. Arguing about the # of wounded animals. Sure there are a few, but so are there in gun season. A bow competency test would be very good, indeed. Since bow range & skills are alot more in factor. It might weed out some bow hunters & help the good name of the sport. Maybe even a minimum box poundage would be help ful in the amount of wounded lost game. -Thanx-

The Fish & Game has done a good job of management. However, we are seeing more Bowhunters who pick up compounds with sights one day and the next day are out hunting Big Game. I don't know if its possible, but Id like to see that regulated somehow. Possibly by an either or program.

Reduce the non-serious archery hunters, therefore increase archery

experience, reduce non retrieve game because of bad/in experience archery hunters. I dislike people who think they can archery hunt within a short period of time, take a shot and wound an animal without harvest. This is a waste of our natural resource and management can do something about it.

'87 - My First Year Bowhunting - Enjoyed immensely - Saw Elk Every Day - No Shots - Learned a Lot. Made My Rifle Season un interesting (By Comparison).

*: Like to See Vital Shot d? - Brief "Summary of Tracking & Warm weather Meat Care available of purchase of License - also references for further literature.

I have Quit a few friends that bow hunt and there always telling me of the deer & elk they wound and never get. Therefore I feel it would be in the archer and animals best interest for the State F.W. & Parks to require all archers to pass a competency test with there bow.

Thank You for the opportunity to express are feelings on the bow season.

Appreciate fact Some One is interested in Archers Opions. I personally Don't mind People Rifle hunting at same time or season. The biggest problem is the Individual whom becomes an instant bow hunter for the first week of season. He is dangerous to others as well as bad for the animals, which sometimes gives archers a bad name. I have yet to hit an animal & not recover it.

The quality of Elk hunting in the areas I hunt is very good, with a good potential for Pope & Young heads - unfortunately, as stated in question 1, Part II, I feel there are a lot of hunters in the woods who have no business being there - I think it necessary to test the shooting abilities of a lot of archery hunters and deny them a license if they can't pass.

I feel even rifle hunters should have to prove their shooting abilities but, unfortunately, the great number of rifle hunters would make this unfeasible.

Countless times I've found wounded or dead game resulting from improper shot or seen idiots blazing away at unbelievable distances without even attempting to make a carefully aimed shot. Hunting the grand big game of Montana is a privilege and some of our so called "sportsman" had best learn this even if it takes the state to impose stricter criteria in obtaining a license.

Even though this is my 1st year archery hunting I've come to defend both pro & cons of it. Hunters say that archery hunting is "cheap shot" & that more animals are injured with the arrow than with a rifle. I disagree because I've heard rumors of rifle hunters hitting game & tracking blood but giving up after an hour or so.

Bow hunting seems to have become pretty popular the past few years. Its a nice time of year and it's a good excuse to get into the hills. But every year I hear the same horror stories of losses & usually by the more inexperienced hunters. I realize crippling also exists during rifle season, but it seem like more mature bulls are lost during bow season because they become highly available, when I do bow hunt elk it's because I love to listen to elk bugle & you can always see lots of animals. I prefer however to hunt with a rifle, and that would be my choice if I had to make one. My suggestion would be to manage for serious educated bow hunters and discourage the less serious from getting involved in the sport.

Bowhunter education is a good idea.

Do not increase fees. The Mt. Dept. of F.W.&P. is already a fat organization that needs its budget trimmed.

Do anything to increase Elk numbers.

Please continue to save Bowhunting for the SAFE Hunter through Bowhunting Mandatory Safety Instruction classes for All Hunters.

I have hunted elk & Deer as long as I have had a tag. Elk Hunting with a Bow is a challenge. But A Man has to pratice alot Before He gos out. This is where alot of people nurt Bow Hunting Because of no pratice

I think that the mandatory Bowhunter ed classes are about 10 years to late in comming and that all should have to take the course.

Have you asked a Gun Hunter how many animals they shot at or hit, in any of the Gun Survey's

Theres to many lousy archers who buy a bow a week or shorter before season and go out with little or no practice. I think that a mandatory shooting test is in order. If you fail once you have to wait a week try again if you fail twice, no License!

Archery doesn't seem to spook the game as much as rifle hunting does.

I would like to see better Bow hunters - (accuracy that is)

I feel an archery stamp should not be sold to anyone that is not reasonably proficient. With the equipment. If they cannot hit a target the side of a dinner plate 4 times out of 5 with two attempts they should not hunt with a bow.

I feel the bow hunters that take poor or low success shots at big game thus wounding & not capturing animals), Should be re-educated about the range & Killing power of Bows.

Reduce the number of "Lost" Animals.

(Good Luck on your thesis)

As you can see my Success Ratio isn't very good. But by the same

token it is a responsibility of the Bowhunter not to take long or Injury causing shots. I enjoy watching and listening to animals as much as Hunting them. Also thank you Fish and Game For Doing a good Job.

I would like to see a survey like this one sent to gun hunters. Gun hunters complain about the archer's wounding, but I see what gun hunter do. Also a bowhunting education course for all archer's would not hurt anyone.

Slob sportsman have driven me from a number of areas generally always to more difficult terrain. Slob, poachers and idiots in our ranks is the greatest problem I see.

Motana as one of few states still outstanding in big game should make a precedent by having Archery hunters show they are proficient with their equipment to show they can humanely take big game at a reasonable distance to stop unesscary wounding & spooking of big game at the expense of responsible hunters

I am satisfied w/the managment of game and archery hunting in general. We could use more volentary education in the form of semanars, movies, etc. directed at improving (archery) hunter attitudes - judgement in taking shots at game - too many people are shooting "at" game with out being sure of their shot (poor range estamation, aim etc.) We are all probably guilty of a poor shot or two but some people seem to take careless shots just to be able to say they "shot at an elk, deer etc." This is an attitude problem not a management one.

As a high school teacher - I know of many young, inexperienced Boys who hit elk with an arrow and are unable to locate them. It seems to me that these younger hunters lack Both the patience & skill to track their hits. I feel much of this unnecessary killing would be eliminated if the more serious hunters were allowed in the field by having an either (bow) or (rifle) season. of course this may reduce some fees that the Game & Fish receive - however perhaps they could increase the Bow & Rifle Licenses. Thank You.

From working with bowhunters and the Fish & Game, several things must be done.

1. We need bowhunter education -- eliminate slob hunting
2. We need to limit out-of-state eMR hunting.
3. We need to support programs such as "Block Mgmt" not private game farms.
4. We need more "walk in only" areas - This is walk only - no horses, cycles, bikes or anything except human power. Put the rich & poor hunter on the same level!!>Guns & Bows

There needs to be more Regional meetings to discuss how we (the bowhunter) feels about changes & what needs to be changed so we

can keep bowhunting a tradition & not a Johnny come latly sport.
also educational course's for young & old are a must

I didn't have the time to pursue Archery (or rifle) hunting that I normally have, this year. I enjoy being able to get out as much as I do ""getting game." (that's the icing on the cake.) I do feel we are getting some "archers" that aren't true BOW HUNTERS and are out for the prestige? rather than the experience of Bowhunting.

I beleive people are not sincere about archery in this day. But I do beleive the archers who are Quality are your Better class of Hunter! Sport!!

I killed an Elk but did not find it. First big game I have ever lost in my life. (28 yrs hunting)
I do not plan to quit bow hunting, however. Now I am analyzing ways to improve this. - Wait longer!!, better equip etc. This is the biggest problem with archery; games losses.

I think your doing a good job but I sometimes wonder about Elk hunting w/a bow. Too many hits are made on animal that eventually die but couldn't be found because some pilgram can't track unless theres snow on the ground. the idea of an archery test is good but I've seen some good target shot shake so hard when 30 yards from an elk, that they cant get a decent shot off. maybe for the sake of all those wasted animals we should hunt elk only with rifles maybe issue a few extra cow tags to make up the balance.
An elk thats killed and goes unfound still gives the right to the shooter to go in search of another. But that elk is still just as dead.

I believe the best thing that could be done for archery hunting would be to establish a requirement for hunters to qualify with their bows, in a field situation before being allowed to hunt. (Reason - special nature of the tool being used.) Too many wounded & unrecoverable animals.

The recent requirement that those under 18 attend a bow hunter education course is unreasonable.
There should be a grandfather clause and exception rule. My son who is 16 has been bow hunting for two years, and works after school and weekends. He has no opportunity to attend the course.

I think I'm a serious hunter whether it be with a Rifle or a Bow and that I passed up a lot of Different shot because they weren't good kill shots. There are some people who would take them any way & that could be a problem in wounding animal. I don't have a solution to this but as far as someone telling you the wound a few animals I Don't believe they would tell you. I would appreciate a list of your findings by this survey and what you

hope to find out by it. And a list of changes you are considering do to this survey & before you got through with them maybe give us a chance for rebuttal. Thank you.

I would like to see archery courses mandatory, that include shooting, to help eliminate the 1st time weekend hunter (or slob) and also the extra \$2.00 for game improvement. Elk & Deer hunting are a most treasured thing by us sportsman and we need to protect the habitat. I think landowner and fish, wildlife needs to work a little closer to help solve the problems that have arisen.

I feel all first time bow hunters should be required to take a Bowhunter Education class. I also lobbied for the bill requiring the class, and am an instructor.

I seen 5 bull elk with Branch antlers in 100 & 102 in 87 but never shot because shots would have been questionable. I think hunters should be encouraged to shoot only if they have good shot opportunity!

I am concerned in regard bow hunting by those incompetent, especially in marksmanship but also in sportsmanship.

I like what the fish & game is doing. I don't think either/or is the way because I know archers who have been in the field a long time that wound more game then new archers. They have a image to fulfill and they shoot beyond their skills. Getting rid of new comers is not the answer. Education is.

I believe the most important way to insure a better deer & elk population would be to eliminate the either sex hunting of big game animals, (does, cows) and would consequently "weed out" the inexperienced or less serious bow hunter. And perhaps enhance the safety of other hunters because a moving patch of brown would no longer be a target for the inexperienced or desperate hunter.

My hunting partners & myself did not take any bad shots - did not wound any game - we saw 6 wounded wlk in rifle season - Hopefully the criticism of archery hunters will be lessened with better educated hunters.

I think every Archery hunter should have to pass a safety course. I also believe there should be stricter rules and stiffer prices about out of state hunters coming into Montana.

The hunt is far more important than the kill - Something must be done to decrease wounded animals if is the publics major complaint against it.

I am worried about the education and dedication that some new hunters are showing. I know of many (far too many) wounded

animals due to lack of education or just hunter indifference. Somehow it should be more difficult to hunt with a bow.

I think Spike bulls should not be taken during rifle season to allow them to mature to branch antlers. No snow and careless shots wound many animals. You should consider tranquilizer-tipped arrows to cut down on lost and wounded animals. All archers should have to pass a tough book and field course before getting an archery stamp. a stamp should allow staggered hunting days and not full season. this staggering would diminish the hunters in the field and disturbance to game during the rut. Aircraft spotters should be restricted. Airplanes buzzing ridges and basins to locate game animals would be illegalized.

I feel there is a need for better education into the field of bow hunting. I have personally come across arrow killed animals several times that were shot poorly or were just left to die. This act is what makes many people believe that bow hunting is cruel & in humane a person needs to be more informed before turned loose with a bow. It is unjust to learn to shoot accurately on live targets. I see this every season & to me that is cruel & inhumane.

I appreciate this state and you for doing such a good job of managing the game.

My only complaint is on those who buy hunting equipment and are not serious about their decision. I consider myself to be an "archer" and that means or holds alot of responsibility. I don't know that your department could keep fools out of the woods! But I'll continue to hope.

I think more people should be educated about Bow hunting not only Bow hunters but everyone. We need to get everyone hunting with a bow or gun to not be just intrested in killing something, but intersted in saveing something to hunt! Thanks for trying to do something.

I hunt with a bow for the excitement. I limit my shots to very close range many times this year, but didn't have a good shot. I feel bow hunters need to be able to pass up all but very good shots.

Have talked to landowners and been refused access to BowHunt Elk because irresponsible hunters have give Bow hunters a bad name by poor shots and not following up on their shots. They did not like bowhunters.

the biggest complaint I hear is that Achers wound elk. I hunt with Bow & Gun Ive wounded more elk with gun than Bow. I take only good shots with a Bow at close range. The 18,000 archers are such a small % compared to the gun hunters. I do agree that there should be a good competency test. so that

someone who is unskilled, isn't out there making a Bad name for serious archers.

Especially would like to see a post or late season Buck hunt.

I wish that all archers would have to practice before going hunting. I think or hear of people going out with none or very little practice for hunting. I also wish there was a way to get them to wait for a good shot and check their shot out better than some hunters do.

There needs to be a way to check Bow hunters competence.

There a too many people that pick up a bow a week before season, cant hit a bale of hay and wound an elk at 70 yards - They shouldn't be shooting over 10 yards but if they can see an animal they will elevate and shoot.

I'm very glad to see such surveys. My wish is to see a better relationship between the bow and gun hunter. I would like to see both groups of hunters have to pass a test in order to hunt along with stiffer fines to detour those who choose to ignore present regulations. I believe this would raise any additional funds needed.

I would like to see the Antelope 800 tags apply to districs closer to home, ie; western Montana. Also, road closings better enforced durring the archery season.

Because of the special requirements of archery hunting, all hunters whould take the bowhunter education class.

Elk hunting, with a bow, is the most challenging sport I've every tried (and enjoyed). I think elk population in S.W. Mont. are very high now & I would like to see them maintained. If they should decrease actions to reduce lowest would be fine with me. More archer education is needed, also a profency test to all archers would be advisable.

Education is the best way to have good hunters, both bow & rifle. To make then choose between a bow or rifle is I hope, the last resort. I belive that the better the sportsman the better the sports.

1) You should also ask how many of us who passed up cows & spikes eventually ended the season with no elk. Many of us do, because hunting is much more than simply sticking any animal. Don't assume we always get those 6-pt bulls. More often, we end up empty-handed. That's our choice.

2) How many rifle hunters shoot at and miss elk? Or hit them but only wound them? I'm sure the number of missed shots & wounded elk from rifle hunting is far greater - even on a per capita comparison - than from archery hunting. This is a deplorable situation, but is it biologically significant?

3) Montana has excellent hunting - as shown by the number of

opportunities & options available to hunters - because we still have excellent habitat. All of us should be concentrating on habitat preservation & protection rather than on manipulating regulations.

I feel that a hunter safety course for Bow hunters is really needed to educate hunters about good shots and poor shot's, distances required to make a good kill and animal safety. Also should educate Bowhunter's about equipment that is significant enough for a good kill!

I feel the archery test would be stupid because hunting situations and target shooting are way diffrent. I would like to see the either sex stay that way.

My major complaint with archery hunting is the number of inexperienced archers hunting elk. This dramatically increases the number of wounded animals lost. This problem is not specific to inexperienced hunters, however, the stories of wounded animals that are lost, and most will die, is something I am having a hard time getting used to.

hunting with a bow is tuff and should only be done by people who can shoot we'll and not just hurt the animal. I was hunting with a party when I stuck a cow, another party member found her before I did and tagged her. so I havent killed an elk 260 should be opened to shot gun because theres so many deer.

Something should be done to stop hunters who take bad shots and then don't track wounded animals. To many people don't take archery hunting seriously and they give the serious hunters a bad name. A test for license is a good idea. (shooting and other.) Every year I have Land owners say I can't hunt because he has seen deer or elk running with an arrow stuck in them.

I think this is a good survey to find out what the hunter feel and what should and should not be done: me myself and other wait & wait until archery season comes but me myself If I had the Power to end Archery season I would but until then I will still hunt. I feel this way because to may elk deer get shot and arent found its deferet rifle hunting for me and for alot of my friends.

am interested to know if possibly how many deer, elk and wild animal are hit with an arrow an never recovered. From talking with bow hunters I often hear about 100 yds. shots, this seems to be a little risky as far as wounding game goes.

I think that more time should be spent on common sense things such as: Road closure: closure due to weather factors: screening of bow hunters, lots of people don't know what they are doing, results in a big number of wounded animals.

I have seen people not even know how to shoot a bow buy a license borrow a bow go out shoot and wound Fawn deer. And leave them to wander & Die. We dont need to raise the cost of a license to reduce the amount of hunters. Just make a hunters course mandatory to get a Archery permit and that alone will cut it in about half. plus weed out the Bad Apple's.

Again I wonder if with many people archery is something they try for 2 or 3 years and quit - I personally know several people in this category - Archery hunters I feel is at at peak level with decreases on the way - with a leveling off in 2 to 5 yrs. - as some quit some start -

-The biggest problem I feel is with a certain percentage of archers is knowing the limitations of the equipment they are using - (40 yds is a long shot) - (these are the slobs of archery)and the people that complain of archery hunting do so because of these hunters -

I feel that archery hunting in Montana is a near-perfect season. However, I think that if changes need to be made for better wildlife management. The first step would be to put a \$1,000 fine for hunter's who cripple animals and make no attempt to track and find. I see far too many dead elk rotting each rifle season.

Too many hunters use archery to improve their chances of getting an animal rather than for the sport of the hunt. Many people buy archery equipment in Aug. & hunt in Sept. as a result we have wounded elk that are not found.

I would like to see a post season for triditional bow hunters Recurve & Longbow only. Also a good educations program for starting bow hunders. I believe it would reduce the number of wounded and lost big game animals. I have bow hunted for 30 years. Cross bows should be out because there nearly a wonding wepon on big game animals.

I think this survey is a good idea - To keep archery hunting level of greatness as it use to be - quit letting out of staters & young kids hunt that have not proven their good enough mandatory Archery course passing under the age of 21 will get rid of fly by night hunters who don't care to work and be good enough to be a Bow hunter.

I am not an "old salt" at archery hunting, but I do feel there needs to be some system wherein a potential archer needs to demonstrate competency with a bow. Without some kind of regulation, complaints of "slob archers" will become more commonplace.

All Bow Hunters should have enough knowledge of their weapons to

know when and when not to shoot at an animal. It is far to easy to wound an animal and escape with loss of the animal. I passed up several shots at animals last season because I wasn't sure of the shot. I think Bow Hunters should be educated in this area. Also in the respect for the animals & Land they hunt on.

Education

Later season hunts would be good as snow would help I also believe there should be a law against anyone hunting with dull broodheads -?- If only they would practice before season this applies to rifle also - to many poorly sighted equipment out there.

We have a good deer pop. in area 130 & lots of young bucks this last year, looks good for later. save those does.

I think that if archery has to have special regulations or has a test for shooting & target practice. Rifle hunters should have to do the same.

I am against the crossbow being used during the archery season. I went to a hunter's education course for bowhunters last year and was very satisfied with the training. This course should be recommended to all bowhunters.

My main concern is the increasing # of Archery hunters - many are not competent enough to know when to shoot or to follow up on wounded animals -

- If it came down to choice between Archery only or rifle I would definitely choice Archery hunting - But I still enjoy any opportunity to be afield.

- I feel Archery Antelope hunting should be an option in most areas of the state under an 800 series permit. ie buy archery antelope permit and hunt any where in the state.

I broke 4 ribs about 2 weeks before archery season opened. My Bow hunting only consisted of the last week & 1/2 of season. For me Bow Hunting is a great way of scouting areas' for rifle season. I am upset with the number of people wounding animals & leaving them to die. 50 & 60 yard shots thru brush only wound animals & leave less to shoot at another time.

A proficiency test for archery hunters is of the upmost importance If all archery stamps were sold at fish and game offices and the archer had to put, say 4 out of 5 arrows in a 12" inch circle at 20 yds before an exanimer it would weed out 80 % of the slobs in the field. Then serious - safe hunters would be in the field and you wouldn't be getting any more of those gut shot animals wandering sick accrost farmers pastures stories

The question about hunters taking an educational course isn't such a bad idea, I myself have passed up alot of shots at elk because anything over 40 yards is to far. I have seen and heard

from many people taking long shot at elk or deer and sticking them in a nonvital area. this I don't like, I see too many animals running around with arrows stuck in them.

I have heard about the new law requiring young archers to attend classes. I have already bow hunted and most of my friends do. I was wondering though if this law contains a grandfather clause like the drinking age law.

I favor a mandatory Bow hunters educational course, Libreral and long seasons, Emphasis on large numbers of game rather than increased number of trophy animals.

Bows or arrows should be made to shot no farther than 45 yards. I think thats what makes the sport a challenge and would get rid of a lot of wounded game that is unnessecary by people taking shots that are to far away.

I would like to see the people that don't ever practice not out hunting and wounding animals. I hear a lot of complants about that and we are all being condemned.

I have a comment on the bill passed to require anybody under 18 to take a coarse before buying a license (archery). I think that should have been looked into further before passing!!!!?

I feel something must be done to get only the serious archer hunting with a bow. I bow hunt exclusively and it can be appravating to have novice after novice in the woods with you. I don't consider myself any better than a rifle hunter but, the skill and patience it takes to properly bow hunt should not be taken lightly, As many people do. Lots of these people being rifle hunters who only extend their season by bowhunting.

I enjoy bowhunting. It is a more challenging task then with a gun. I have never hit a deer or elk and lost the game. I believe more education is needed for all hunters (tracking especially). The best thing to do would be to make bow season after rifle season & adjust rifle season appropriately.

Archery hunting is a good sport, but too many people take a bow, with no or limited practice, go out and take poor or too distant shots at game. The deer that I harvested in rifle season evidenced an arrow wound in the neck that was in process of healing.(non-septic in fact

Most Bow hunters don't have the respect of the elk. The Bow is a good instrument if used correctly. A very large number of big bulls are lost because of poor hits or lack of tracking snow. I find several each year in my district. I don't feel fish & game cares about the sportsman except if he has a liscensen or not.

Cater to the outfitter. Just looking for the big bucks.

A crossbow if not Archery I would like to see something done to get the slob bowhunter out of the Field. By requiring all archery to pass a test which would get them out of the field for they wouldn't take a test.

Every year I see more people buy a bow & go out & chase around elk. This results in more harassment, more crippling & all the problems land-owners have during rifle-season. A young rutting bull elk is the most vulnerable game animal in the woods & must be protected from this type of "seasonal hunter". We must declare bow or rifle for each big game species & buy the tag before the season starts. Archery hunters are now predominately people out scouting for elk which they will eventually kill with their rifle, in the rifle season.

Mandatory proficiency testing should be done. Archery should be actively promoted by Mt. Fish & Game, as it is a far more ambient wildlife experience & management tool than rifle hunting. Licence fees should be increased, & user fees set up for access to forest service - generating more revenue for state, reducing motivation for inappropriate timber harvests. Game populations should be managed to allow animals to achieve maturity.

I had a opportunity to shoot at a cow & a bull but couldn't get a clean shot, I allowed a calf to go which I could have shot easily. Other hunters in the area did shoot 2 calves I do not approve of this. And people that don't know what they are doing are wounding animals.

I feel the archery season in Mt. is fine. I would like to see a longer deer season (after gen. season) and also education for bowhunters. I find too many bowhunters that don't practice shooting and end up wounding animals. Also-people should be taught to trail wounded animals.

I guess the weather is nice during Archery season allowing me to take the family camping also, allowing for a family experience. All Hunters should have to pass an hunters education course.

No Crossbows we must maintain the integrity of Archery season. the additional challenge is the reason to bowhunt, so lets not remove the challenge by making it any easier by allowing crossbows during archery season.

Archery Hunting allows the maximum amount of recreation with the least amount of impact on the environment

There are too many so called archers. When I hunt with a Bow if I don't get good clean shots I pass them up. Also if archers wound too many animals and don't find them hunt the area where I rifle hunt. I do both and I have never found an animal wounded by an archer. I wish I could say the same about rifle hunting!

My main concern with archery hunting is the very high possibility of losing an animal. I am not as serious as I should be, as far as practice shooting. I try not to shoot at any animal over 20 yds. Therefore I rarely take a shot. I have killed only 1 mule deer doe on a B tag. I have never lost any deer or elk. But the possibility is there and high. When I have taken a shot and missed, I was lucky enough to miss the animal completely. A slightly miss placed hit and a very poor blood trail or none at all and you will probably lose him. I don't want to see an either-or rifle or bow only choice. But it will put only the most responsible archers in the field. I would choose the rifle season.

Bowhunting is very important to me. But like all types of hunting bowhunting has it's slobs. I would very much like to see a mandatory bowhunter education requirement For All Bowhunters. With no grandfather clause. Because it take time to be a good bowhunter. I would also like to see a preseason cut off date on the sale of archery licenses.

I don't agree with the idea of kids having to take hunter safety for bow hunting. If they have already taken it for rifle hunting.

To many spotting game from aircraft. To much poaching. To many bow hunters in need of target practice, most do not know the limits of the bow. Consequently my range is up to 40 yds. Prefer 30 yds.

The one most important step the FW & Parks division should take to ensure the future of archery in Montana is to require rigid performance requirements for all ages of archery before licensure. This would either controll the numbers of archers, or at least ensure their competency in the field. A large portion of the complaints against archery comes from reports of wounded and unrecovered game, often from archers themselves. This appears to be due to incomplete preparedness on the part of the archer. These people should not be issued licenses. The only way to prevent some of these occurrences is to require archers to prove high levels of skill w/ their weapon and hope that their ethics also have reached a high standard.

I feel that there should be a competency course for both rifle and bowhunters. This would decrease the number of wounded animals and weed out individuals who aren't serious.

I was appalled at the number of rifle hunters shooting deer and not following them. I tracked several for people opening day near Hysham. One man shot 4 deer and didn't find any of them. I reported it to the Fish and Game. If you are getting at archers wounding elk, I have heard of it happening, all but one case was

from shooting too far. Rifle hunters are actually worse when it comes to shooting too far, but they think they missed.

Opening day of rifle season I was pheasant hunting near Hysham, by 11:00 AM I put my shot gun away and started following blood trails. I successfully found deer for people most of whom did not even bother to attempt to track the wounded animals. One man said he hit 4 deer, knocking one head over heels, but he couldn't find any of them. A couple of old guys actually looked hard all day for a wounded deer but they didn't recover it. Many other people wounded deer in that 10 mi² area most did not have a clue how to recover them.

I feel that you should leave the archery laws alone, except maybe to implement an archery education class. I strongly feel that all hunters of any age in any type of season be required to pass a test on game tracking and care of game in the field. Too many hunters, mostly gun hunters, have absolutely no respect for the game they hunt. Outfitter-guides are greedy and want to restrict archery so they can take more ignoramous into the field to rape our great state.

I beleive a proficiency test should be required using the equipment an archery hunts with should be used (broad heads) do not make the equipment more "primitive" as it would cause more cripples. Plenty of opportunity, animals and time to do it, are now provided as it now stands. FWP doing a good job.

Soemwhere soon the possibility of a muzzleloading season should be surveyed. I for one think there are a lot of muzzle-loaders out there who would be interested not to mention the out of staters etc...

Do you have to take a test for archery before you can hunt

I think the biggest problem is so many people bow hunting who don't practice enough to shoot straight. Many carry a bow in their vehicle while bird hunting and shoot at any deer or elk they see. A basic accuracy test, given by F.W. and P. personel, would be a good idea as a requirement before getting an archery stamp.

I hunted elk with a bow in 1986 but did not hunt elk with a bow in 1987.

I think all new 12-14 yrs. old bow hunters shoudl take a bow hunting class.

I would liek to see more late season hunts with a bow. I would also like to see all bowhunters required to take the bowhunter education course before they could hunt.

Limit bow hunters to those who are serious and proficient. Cut the season in half and give the second half to muzzle loaders. Raise the archery fee and require testing for game identification, skill, accuracy, and ethics. I'm disgusted at the number of wounded deer I see during rifle season. By the way, I don't bowhunt and never have. How did you get my address as an "archery license holder"?

I feel the season is the wrong time of year. Unless a person can prove that they can shoot a bow and kill. To many animals are wounded and die later, never to be found in time.

The number of animals taken only represents a smaller % of animals wounded and left to die. Better archer skill's and education along with workable tracking devices would make for a better name for the sport, and better use of the wildlife.

As a doctor I work with a great deal of the public. Each and every year, I alone, listen to archery hunters back luck stories (8 to 10 ea. year) of the elk they stuck in the shoulder, liver or guts that got away. Then they say "I didn't hunt him bad though." I love to archery and rifle hunt but hearing this every year makes me very bitter towards the archers who do not learn the skills and try to exceed their shooting limitations.

I think all bowhunters should realize hwo making unsure, poor and completely out of range shoots can decrease population of the heards incredibly. I personally talked to some out of state hunters who shot a dozen or more arrows and claim to have hit over half the animals and never took anything home. This kind of management can and will destory the hunting in Montana, the place you and I call home.

I fell that to many animals are getting wounded, and not found. And because of it there should be some hunter awerness program's also the use of tracking devices should be the law. Let's try to curb this proublem.

I believe there are too many people who are making Hail Mary shots with a bow leaving arrow's in non lethal places in our game animals

I don't know the solution but maybey a competency test would help.

I began bow hunting for elk because I wanted to see bulls, hear the rut, and get close to elk in a more natural setting. It has been one of the most remarkable things I've done. I think archery hunters ought to be able to pass a competency exam. I think bull populations branch-antlered should be encouraged.

I have bowhunted for 16 years and feel that the compound and

other technical advances have increased the number of bow hunters who participate but with a low level of commitment. This low level of commitment translates into going hunting with minimum practice and mental preparation.

It is important, I feel, to limit the archer's technical advantage for the following reasons:

- 1) It limits the number of archers which is becoming a problem in some areas and it will tend to call out the archers who aren't willing to make a large commitment to the reinforcement of their skills as archers.
- 2) Limited technology will limit the impact on the game populations.
- 3) By limiting the impact on game populations you can keep the seasons long and thereby provide a lot of recreational hours per animal taken.

I have heard during one discussion an idea of if necessary, shorten the season when "hi tec" equipment is allowed and have a segment of the season open just to long bows and recurves. It may be a way of encouraging archers to avoid the methods of hunting that are hardest on the game populations.

I would like bow hunters to qualify at different targets at different ranges before they get their licenses. I saw a lot of wounded game this year because of badly placed shots.

I do plan to hunt this year, '88, with my bow. I'm not sure of elk but deer I'll do. I have a problem with weekend archers and same with rifle hunters. They should practice up, sight in, etc. I hate drinkers that booze 'n shoot then drive to a bar and continue boozing, leaving the meat on the hot hood of the vehicle to spoil in the warm afternoon and evening. I also fish 'n release. Big fish breed big fish. I see too many over limit fishing of one spot to bad for us all.

The only change I would make is the testing of the hunters ability to hit or kill shot. Too many people purchase a bow and start hunting with out practice. I feel the major share of wounded animals are how people who do not practice enough.

I am concerned about the number of wounded animals. It is probably far less than rifle hunter, but it give bow hunters a bad name.

I would like to see a law passed to make every bowhunter take a shooting competency test, or they can't get an archery stamp. I've seen a lot of people that can't hit a 4X4 chunk of styrofoam at 30 yds with 5 arrows. Put a lifesize deer target up at 10-20-30 yds. and see if people can hit the kill zone with 3 out of 5 arrows.

It ticks me off to find dead deer that have been wounded by the ignorant novice bow hunter. Sometimes I can just bet who wounded the deer that I have found one dead. Something has definately got to be done about it.

I won't shoot at an animal unless I am sure I can bring it down with one shot and drop it where it stands. Too many guys are taking wild shots and wounding the animal and leave it to die or are unable to track for lack of snow. You have to try to eliminate the hunters that odn't care. It's not a matter of giving the choice of rifle season or low season, you still have the same careless hunters regardless. All bow hunters should not be able to drive into the areas but make them walk in areas fromt he highway- this would eliminate a lot of hunters that have no business being out there and they wouldn't be distrubing breeding season.

Taking a test for bow hunting would leave out people who are iliterate but good hunters and caring hunters that care about the land and the animals and really enjoy the privilage of hunting with a bow. There is no way to elimiante the ameteur bow hunter. This is why bow season should be moved to a later time of the where there is snow--so they have a chance to track.

I am concern about the quality of marksmanship in archery hunters. Would like to see the department test each hunter to prove that they can shoot sufficently to kill an animal in a humane fashion.

My main concern is getting people educated to the sport of bow hunting--alot of people think it is liek rifle hunting and don't practice-They don't know the difference between a bullet and a broadhead--we need education--to many "slob" hunters.

Maybe an education course helping archers understand how easy it is to make a bad shot and ultimately wound game should be required. it is my opinion too many archers take too long a shot resulting in many wounded lost animals

I feel there should absulutly be an hunters education. And also the archery season should be limited to compound bow at the very least. Definitly not the crossbow.

I am a very avid archer and good huntter, and archery is a rowingand great sport and I feel we do need to start making a few changes in the archery laws as we go along so as we don't ruin the sport. For instance get rid of the half ass Kmart bow hunting so to speak who don't practice and do no more than wound alot of deer. and also get rid of the poacher who buys a archery stamp and has no intention of using a bow, believe me this happens alot! this could be helped by either raising the archery tag in price. or a systom where you would have to make a choice of

either gun or bow. or a third way wich I think is a good way to do it. would be you could hunt gun or bow but, the first choice whether it be gun or bow you pay general license fees and if you make a second choice whether it be gun or bow you woud pay a much higher be set by fish and game

All archers should be required to take a archery safety course. It would help limit the number of dear lost and "overnight hunters".

Elk hunting with Bow, is good in Montana but I think too many elk are shoot and lost, people have to be taught that bows don't kill like guns

People need to practice shooting bow and arrow I here of to many elk shot and not found people need to take archery more seriously.

I think you can decrease the #'s of archers by requiring bow education courses, and get a better archer at the same time.

I also think that the f & g service is concerned with 1st. - money (how to get more) 2nd. - making Montana as out-of-state hunting dist. 3rd. - concerned with habitat, wildlife

Good questionnaire. Do something with it

An archery hunter education course should be mandantory. Too many hunters lack range estimation skills and attempt too long shots. Tracking skills should be emphasized. Total hunting experienced should be emphasized, not success at all costs.

I feel to many animals are lost because they can't be tracked without snow. Archery should be after general rifle season.

I would like to see all bowhunters pass a education course & pass a test of shooting ability. Something like a 3-D shoot. Their is to many hit & lost animals. Thankyou for the chance to complete this survey

Shooting accuracy test before awarding archery tag. Archers have their own season in special Elk tag drawing areas such as a Gardiner late hunt for bow. Ruby river area preseason elk hunt.

I feel that bow hunter education should be mandantory for all bowhunters. Also by a certain date say Aug 15 a shooting test will have to be passed in order to aquire an archery tag. Up dated every 5 year. Rifle hunter should have the same tests.

I feel something must be done to restrict the number of people who aren't serious archery hunters. I mean the kind of people who buy a bow the day before the season opens, don't practice and take shots they shouldn't resulting in wounded game. This gives the serious archery hunter a bad name.

All archery hunters must become aware of the limitations of their equipment (no matter how powerful &/or high tech.) and just as important is being aware of their own personal skills & ability. Because a few people don't give a damn, I'm afraid its up to you guys to require bow hunter education before issuing a bow stamp.

I'd like to repeat that I'm adamantly against the use of crossbows during the archery season. let them hunt the rifle season!

I seriously believe the use of Mechanical Releases should be prohibited. Let 'em use a glove or tab!

Concerning part II, #8 i.; I don't think it would hurt a bit to have 2 or 3 weeks break between seasons. The animals deserve it.

Missouri Breaks elk herd should be managed as one herd unit - not under 3 different regions. More attention should be focused on hunter ethics - there are too many slob archery hunters in the Breaks. Should not allow Indians (Warhoops) to hunt off the reservation, especially for the "Breaks" elk

I have hunted elk with a bow, but have heard of so many being wounded that I have stoped hunting them. and I do fell that man bugling and hunting elk during there breeding season has affected it. I believe it is hard enough to take an elk down with a rifle. I also believe that either sex should be open for the first week of general season in some of the 200 dist. and that some 200 dist. should be open only for Branch Antler Bulls. So that spicks have time to muture. The either sex should not include calves only yearlings & older cows.

There are too many hunters who have taken up archery and are not proficient with a bow!! DFWP should require that archers pass a proficiency test prior to being allowed to hunt with a bow. The use of bugles should be banned, they are being used frequently, by inexperienced hunters, and I believe that this is impacting on the elk breeding habits. Most importantly I believe that hunters should be given one choice - Bow or Rifle, ONE or the OTHER this would eliminate the less than serious archer.

I would like to see the season stay as it is. I am not a extreemly serious bow hunter about the sport all the time. I would favor a certification just for safety, training & knowlege of the sport. I enjoy our outdoors and like to hunt but also like to feel free to do this. If we cut it down and regulate what we have then it will only restrict the people who do enjoy our great outdoors and its place in a peaceful life.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE BOW HUNTERS PASS A SHOOTING TEST & ALSO EDUCATE THEMSELFS IN TRACKING HIT GAME. I ALSO FEEL THAT SEX RESTRICTION SHOULD BE USED IN BOW SEASON AS WELL AS THE GENERAL SEASON. THIS WOULD HELP ARE BULL POPULATION GROW BY NOT ALLOWING SHOOTING OF SPIKES AND IN SOME AREAS THE SHOOTING OF BULLS DURING

THE RUT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED.

Because the number of archery hunters has increased so substantially, elk bugling and archery - only district hunting has been negatively affected. there have also been too many wounded animals. too many bowhunters are simply gun hunters who are extending their season. A lot of problems would be solved if hunters had to choose gun or bows, with the exception that both gun and bow hunters could hunt during a 2 week extended season with a bow. that way gun hunters who own bows would still have a chance to use them and sporting goods stores would not lose so much income. All bowhunters should prove their proficiency.

If temperature is too hot during opening of bow season, should be closed until it gets colder. In my opinion most bow hunters should hold a shot if unsure of hit and wound the animal and doesn't find it.

I have 1 1/2 days per week to hunt, it is spoiled by people who don't know how to hunt or areas that we cannot hunt, game reserve in stevensville for deer, that they never come out into hunting areas

I appreciate your efforts & concern about archery. I feel the sport is inundated by people who are well-intentioned but poorly skilled. the critical factor is after-the-shot tracking skills, caring for the meat, etc. I don't know how to regulate ignorance.

I think all new comers to archery hunting should have to take a course too learn the killing ability of a bow and what yardage is acceptable (not 100 yards) type B.S. and safety with a bow and arrow's

I feel that a competency test is necessary for archery hunters.

Each year I see lots of people new to the sport pick-up a bow & a dozen arrows & hunt with out ever becoming a decent shot. That leads to crippled game!!

I think a lot of these questions are strongly anti-archery as the F & G Commission has been known to be. I think they are trying to do away with archery hunting as they see fit or to their advantage. They think the good bow hunters who kill an elk, mostly branch bulls, is taking away from the rifle hunters quota, but those same hunters would take an elk with a rifle. The problem goes beyond archers or rifle hunters, it is a result of all hunter pressure, and other than 1987, several back to back years of great hunting weather resulting in high hunter success on elk. good bow hunters like good rifle hunters don't lose animals its the slob hunter of both types that ruins it for everyone. Bow hunter education would certainly help our sport a lot of incompetent people are out there making a bad name for us.

More concern should be taken, for people who don't take archery hunting seriously, who don't practice enough, & people who shoot at anything they see not caring if they wound or it or not.

As I have stated thru this I know there are too many people in the woods that don't belong there. These are the ones that can pass any bowhunter proficiency course but get so excited when a elk gets in front of them at any range they just start launching arrows that go who knows where

I feel archery hunting should have some sort of hunter safety classes regarding tracking and doe's and don'ts of archery hunting. A proficiency test would be more hassle than it is worth and would not be a accurate test. More warden's should check kills than is currently being done. This may cut down on the poaching with rifles. We have a quality hunting state let's work to keep it.

a course on bow and arrow hunting should be manditory to improve ethical standards-to many people take poor shots and wound animals

elk hunting by bow is a wonderful experience, yet there are those who archery hunt and don't care if they hit an elk & don't find it! This is why people should pick either rifle or archery

I hunt for the enjoyment not the meat, and like to get into the woods

But we need to control the people that do not know how to hunt with bow and arrow that set a bad seen for good hunters.

I think in requiring a bowhunting course it would help make people realize the importance of tracking an animal until its found or has stopped bleeding. also to teach to only take good shots.

I would like to see compond bows eliminated, but since this is unlikely, a comprehensive, tough bowhunter course with a test of shooting competence ~~has~~to be implemented. Most of the "new breed" of archers are like "bulls in china closets" in the woods.

Lighted sites should be eliminated.-enables unethical archers to shoot too early & too late. Most broadheads on market (insert blade types) are no good. They regularly lose one or more blades when they hit ribs, even on deer. wounded and lost animals result. I favor protecting young of the year & spike bulls in both archery & rifle seasons.

I am happy & encouraged to see the Dept. initiate this survey. Much will be learned. Since only 1 in 10 or 1 in 12 bowhunters are MBA members, I hope the state can do more thru education, not regulation to improve the moral/ethical behavior of bowhunters both for the welfare of the game and the public image which is

often misunderstood.

Would like to see less overnight hunters & arrow flingers that give archers a bad name.

Would like to see an after rifle season

would like to see more trophy bulls

I would like to see more education on bow hunting because there are too many hunters that take shots at animals that should not have been taken. I will not take a shot that is not clean and that will not kill the animal. Too many people shoot to be shooting!

I feel the state has good opportunities primarily speaking of elk. Obviously some areas have larger herds as around Thompson falls, BigHole, or Clearwater. But the elk are out there if you're willing to work for it. Future management could help in areas with smaller numbers. One concern I have is for hunter competence, and control to wait for a good shot. I have brought in elk every year but am pretty conservative about marginal shots. Too many elk are running around with broodheads in a shoulder or hind quarter.

leave it as it is but require bow hunter education classes for everyone, no grandfathers.

how about a late hunt-close one week then open 'til Dec 31

Would really like to see a late season Buck hunt.

Would like to see everything else stay the same except I would go for a one time competency test.

To me the biggest threat to bowhunting today is the average nonchalant, weekend bowhunter. I enjoy the liberal bow season here in Mt. (unlike some neighbors such as Wyoming were more stringent regs. are in effect) but would conform to tighter controls if absolutely necessary. This is for mostly selfish reasons, ie.-I love the freedom to hunt elk all over the state this is what separates us from almost every other state.

My biggest concern with archery hunting is the number of unqualified/incompetent ones. I feel this is because many are not serious enough to practice and learn to shoot well. They buy a bow and go hunting hoping to get lucky.

I feel some way has to be figured out to increase the level of competency-hunters education would not be effective nor would a minimum level of shooting ability because different hunters can shoot accurately a different distances, they must restrict themselves to their accurate distances.

I feel a choose your weapon (rifle or bow) would force unqualified hunters to either get better or give up their bow (if they want to kill something). I do not personally like having to choose between a bow or rifle, but if it would eliminate non-

serious archers I would support it.

Before action is taken I would like to see the Fish & Game commission conduct more of these surveys and meet with sportsmen concerning just the Archery season to discuss options-there needs to be mandatory bow hunting education for those under 18 yrs. of age!

Bowhunting has increased in popularity over the past years that something needs to be done educate the hunter. Gun hunter alike.

Possibly the most important change would be an archery competency test prior to issuance of an archery stamp. Please also try to rem. that responsible rifle hunters are responsible bow hunters and vice versa. Most hard core bow hunters like myself would never give up their gun season, we do not in my opinion have an archery hunter pop. problem.

I think there should be a archery education and safety course. Plus a shooting test to hunt big game

I love archery hunting but the direction it seems to be heading what with all of the "instant success Gimmickry" and elitest attitude by a few can only hurt we need to maintain our numbers because numbers count as votes-dollars. I am in favor of national bow hunter education @took the course several years ago from Bill Wadsworth and found it very worthwhile

I am satisfied with bowhunting except for a few hunters who are not qualified to even hunt with a bow or track a wounded animal if need be. I also think that elk are becoming more spooky every year because of hunting pressure.

I am satisfied w/ rules & regulations of Montana's archery hunting, but emphasis needs to be placed on better archer education. ei: safety, accuracy & proficiency of shooting (practice before season to achieve excellence w/ bow-many hunters don't & take shots beyond bow capability thus wounding animals..)

The problem with all types of hunting in Montana is the hunters. Too many want to kill something at all costs. I feel making hunters walk or horse back into an area improves hunting for everyone because those who go back into an area are better sportsmen!

I am upset with the advertising and selling of bows a few weeks previously and during the archery season. A person with no experience can not possibly be proficient in a short time. I'm not happy with the use of mechanical bows for persons who are physically able to shoot recurve or long bows.

Your last 6 questions, I feel, do not adequately address the problem as I see it. I see a lot of elk each year during archery

season, but I do not shoot because, in my judgement, they are too far away to shoot. The maximum distance I will shoot is 30 yards, and it must be a clear, kill shot. Being born & raised in Montana and hunting all my life with my dad and by myself, I personally have seen too many, for my taste, crippled & dead animals shot by archery hunters, who, by where the animals were hit, escaped & died, or were in no condition for human consumption.

I feel that a competency education course is a prerequisite to obtain an archery stamp, much more so than for a rifle license.

I believe the top priority for all Montana archers who wish to improve their sport is to eliminate the "slob" bowhunters. Through education & regulation we need to eliminate the people who are not prepared or capable of "fair chase" bowhunting. As a rancher and bowhunter in prime elk country I'm sick of the prejudice shown by many landowners against the hunting archer do to those afield merely because it is legal, not because they are real bowhunters. I doubt these people will be "priced" out of the field.

I would vote for choosing to hunt with bow only if it were the only way in which I could bowhunt. This step, though it would certainly curb the type of "bowhunter" I complain about, would be unfair to those who enjoy both. I appreciate your effort in this questionnaire.

I feel that if Archery classes are taught during hunters safety, Archery will be taken seriously and badshots won't be taken by a careful hunter. With that thes I think that the population of animals won't be endangered by inexperienced hunters won't be taking badshots and just wounding the animal.

11. OUTFITTERS/GUIDES. NONRESIDENTS.

I urge the FWP to stop the rapid increase of outfitters and guides in Montana. It's bad enough to have to compete with one another. Let alone with those doing it for money. The guide and outfitters association are getting state subsidy through the guaranteed 5600 licenses allotted to them and them only. The state is in error to subsidize when using the public's wildlife population. It is for all people distributed equally.

I think that the bowhunters of this state should be given the same considerations as the guides and outfitters have been given.

The outfitters are leasing up most of the private land where I elk hunt, and also are allowed to hunt on BLM and Forest Service land. They are the ones who are causing the rest of us big trouble - like ranchers charging to hunt - or closing lands I've hunted for years.

I'd like to see you reverse the trend of private outfitters locking up large tracts of public ground by controlling access points. I feel that outfitters are attempting to monopolize hunting at the expense of the private individual.

I think that all out of state hunters should be required to employ a licensed outfitter and have him present whenever hunting.

I also think it would be alright to shorten pre-season archery by 2 weeks and have a two week post season in December.

I see no reason why 324 can't be open to archers. This is pristine elk country for the archer. Even though the Fish and Game is managing this area it is being abused by rifle hunters, guides and outfitters with motorized vehicles. Most of this area is supposed to be roadless. I have never heard of a bowhunter, hunting elk from a 4 - wheel drive vehicle or ATV.

There are many issues and approaches to consider in archery hunting. However, enforcement of many changes would be a nightmare. Montana has too many outfitters with overlapping areas increasing game disturbance and regeneration. The lack of trophy animals in the areas I am familiar with are direct results of two season hunters, overtake of game, too many outfitters, increased access and landowner abuse. Montana has a unique resource but it is being loved to death. Would recommend in area 332, all area west of the Steel Pox Road, be closed to any hunting except those with a cow permit. Access is destroying game migration and wintering range of cows and small bulls. Would suggest a once in a lifetime bull elk with a bow. This would slow down the taking of lesser bulls.

The way outfitters are taking over private property, and all the horseback hunting pressure, I don't think Fish and Game needs to start picking on archery hunters. It seems our game comes in second, to the all mighty dollar. If you think I'm wrong, just try to hunt on private property for free or try the Powder River country for spring turkeys. In hunting district 455, the bear tooth game, which I have hunted since 1973, used to be a great place to hunt. Both during archery, and rifle season. Now archery season is still good, but during the general season, there are so many horseback hunters the elk stay, for the most part on private property, as soon as they enter the game range, the horse hunters drive them back. It's getting so bad, that people on foot are being forced to hunt elsewhere if they hope to see any game.

I fill that out of state licenses should be increased 300%. I fill that there should be some sort of finatinal insentive to private landowners to allow access. I fill that outfitters leasing public lands for private gain, and denying access is a outrage, and should be outlawed.

I think quality of elk archery is excellent and I pass up many spikes and rag horns. If you have to restrict or manage tighter, my suggestion would be higher fees and choosing archery or rifle as only restriction other than restricting outfitters in this state and making sure the 17,00 non-resident quota stays. Its time you do something about the ridiculous number of outfitters in Montana.

I have hurd roomers that out fitters chase everything back up into the hills up around the Kings Hill area just before season opens. I have never seen this, but when woodcutters tell me about the elk they see and I go out on opening day and don't see a deer I wonder if there couldn't be something too it.

Because of economics, the resident hunter is suffering due to outfitters leasing land to satisfy non-resident demands. I think the whole outfitter business needs to be looked at closer and more restrictions placed on the industry in order to benifit the resident. We have surpassed the saturation point.

Too many ATV's and outfitters 4x4's on closed logging roads during season. If the roads are closed and posted as such, no vehicles should be allowed past the closure. the landowners, outfitter and whatever he calls himself, who lives on the Taylor Fork should be fined and put out of business for breaking every Fish and Game access law on the books. He has a key for the locked gates on all the Forest Service roads and he uses him for himself and his clients. The outfitters in this state are cutting the throats of the other resident hunters. Before the seasons begin, they are bidding against each other for the

rights to hunt on various ranches. The rancher aren't dumb. They take the highest bid and lock the rest of us out. Enforce the laws already on the books and the game in this state will be better for it.

I think that people who live in other states have hunting area 000, and they should hunt in there own state and not ours. This applys to rifle and archery seasons. Also, I would I to see more deer and elk in this state.

What makes me mad is people from out of state. They are here, which they have never hunted here before, and get big bulls, bucks and bear. I've lived in Lincoln all my life and haven't got a bull elk yet. I think they should limit the out of state hunters to hunt in a certain area.

I think Helena and our elected ofcials in Helena are backing guides and out of stater's to much. We pay the taxes in this state and there lestining to the outfitter who bring in non tax paying out of stater's that spend less money in this state than the local hunter who voted them into office, who can vote them out.

Too much non-resident pressure in area 250 and 270.

1) State residents get licenses first if rules are changed. 2) Reduce outfitters. 3) Get foot access acrossed private land to state and federal lands. 4) Close more 4x4 truck roads. All-terrain vehicles cause less damage to vegetation, quit, must stay on roads except to retrive game.

I am very satisfied with the hunting, numbers of elk, regulations etc. But the number of outfitters and guide camps are becoming more and more numerous in my hunting area. I've never hunted off or used horses. Places I've found elk fairly numerous are getting more pressure from people on horses from guided camps. My experience with most of the guides and outfitters is that they are fairly rude people. There out there making money off these people and they flat don't want any buddy else around. I feel there needs to be something about this. I don't really have any idea what, but this is getting to be a problem.

I would like to see the outfitters and out of state hunters policed more, I know there are poor hunters right here inMontana but the majority of the abuse of hunting ethics are by these two main groups.

I can't be much help in your survey because of inexperience; but I'm tired of hearing our state being run down by out of staters. They are tired of paying high fees? Let them hunt their own states. Montana has good hunting because Montanans respect their state and their privelege to hunt. Don't make us pay more for

those priveleges we earn.

If there are to be any limits imposed on hunting in Montana, let them be imposed on out of state hunters.

I just wish that Montana would not let in quite as many out of state hunters. It seems that every year that there are more hunters in the field which help deteriorate quality hunting! Some people would argue that there isn't any such thing as subsistance hunting anymore so why not raise the fees for more revenue for better management. Well I say, thats not exactly fair to the people who are residents of Montana who couldn't afford greatly raised fees and who grew up learning how to respect and use a resource thats part of their heritage. For example, I never put in for moose, goat, sheep, etc., because of the increased special permit fees. I just can't afford \$50.00 for this priveledge!

I would like to see surveys for rifle seasons. Also the number of out of state hunters cut DRAMATICALLY! I'm really not happy with out of state hunters and it is ruining hunting for in-state hunters.

I feel greedy outfitters and property owners are governing wildlife in Montana. Let's give that responsiblity to the game and fish department.

A choice of a buck and doe and the river bottom in area 260. To many outfitters.

Archery should be allowed only for Montana residents. Leave at least one season where Montana residents can enjoy what we have worked and sacrificed for - living in this state so we can enjoy the recreational benefits of this state. Don't turn the archery season into something manipulated solely for economics as the gun season is currently managed.

Control out of state licenses for both bow and arrow and rifle. Increase their fees - those who live in Montana pay the taxes and suffer economically to live here!

1) Restrict the number of commercial hunts in the state. 2) Increase non-resident license fees. 3) Do research into an imobolizing drug that would not affect consumption of the meat.

I feel the elk are adapting to the hunters by changing their bugling habits. If left alone, nature can do far more than and new laws imposed by the fish and game. If any restrictions are imposed, the should be done during general season. This would have a greater impact than anything that could be done during archery season.

Decrease bureaucracy and increase productivity.

I am generally very satisfied with your handling of archery hunting. I do know that lots of animals are wounded and escape. I also know of a blatant infraction of game laws by an out of state archery hunter who regularly hunts on the large private ranch at Drummond. (No hunting allowed). I think out of state archery hunters should pay a hefty non-resident fee.

One thing that would help would be to keep out of state hunters in their own state. The resident Montanan can't go hunting without feeling some pressure from out of state hunters.

Cut out of state hunting.

I think the price of out of state hunters should be raised to \$1000.00 per season and additional fees for each tag. Montana residents pay high taxes and out of state hunters don't pay their share.

I feel that there are too many outfitters in most of western Montana and thru them wealthy out of staters "buy" an animal. In other words they are able to harvest an animal that they couldn't without the outfitter. We Montanans put up with the economy of Montana and should reap the benefit.

I've only lived here for 5 years and the hunting has changed alot. I see alot more non-residents in the woods and way to many outfitters. They are by far the worst kind of sportsman. Between the F W & Parks and outfitters they seem to be calling all the shots. I have 30 years of hunting under my belt. Lately it's getting harder to look forward to hunting at all.

I'm a fourth generation true blood Montanan. Don't restrict us any more than you have. The transplants in our state have almost revived hunting and fishing. 5 years should be the time in the state to become a resident. Limit more out of state hunting. NO MORE DRAWINGS! NO MORE OUTFITTERS.

The number of out of state hunters afield in Montana definitely detracts from the hunting experience. I feel that the costs to out of state hunters (primarily license fees) should be tripled annually. I also feel that people should have to reside continuously in MT for 15 years before being granted resident status.

Had much more competition with out of state hunters in 1987. Seems to be many more outfitters than there used to be. Everywhere I went outfitters had moved into areas not previously hunted by outfitters. I would like to see the number of outfitters reduced.

Also logging impacts by Forest Service and private people seem to effect herd movements for a couple of years. Land developments in wintering grounds has done more damage in past 10 years to several good areas. Everytime I find a good spot I tell the game station and the following year I am invaded by a ridiculous amount of hunting pressure whom the Fish and Game sent there mostly out of state hunters. It is becoming painful to be honest with your people at the game check stations.

To many trophy hunters and out of state hunters. Let the out of state hunters ruin their own state, not ours.

Quit bothering resident hunters, raise out of state rates on all hunting if you're so worried about money, make more public lands accessible. cut down on out of state permits issued, give residents first crack at permits, let out of staters have whats left (rifle and bow).

Again I feel the biggest problem facing hunting in Montana is the "Big Money Hunting" which of course the state favors. Guides and outfitters think they run the damn thing and that anybody that doesn't pay to hunt is a slob. So limit permits to guides and limit out of state hunters.

More needs to be done to allow better access to private land. Let's not allow outfitters to tie up large tracts of private land! Just a few years ago a polite, timely request to hunt was seldom refused - not anymore.

I feel the game management in Montana is given too much consideration towards the wants and needs of outfitters and guides. I further feel the game management agencies and game commission base their decisions on political rather than environmental concerns.

I think that ourfitters should be restricted to the amount of clients they have in a general hunting season, and in any given area.

I use to tolerate "outfitter/guides" when there were only a few legitimate licensed outfitters. But now a days I've seen to many "outfitters" who send out of state greenhorn hunters out with so called "guides" (no license). They have devastated areas I have hunted in past years. Don't know who to blame though. I think the state should eliminate out of state bow hunters and strongly reduce the numbers allow during rifle season.

Archery hunting overall has been good. I see a trend due to the states financial status to push residents aside more and more so non-residents will come and spend their money. It's becoming more difficult every year for residents to enjoy hunting. It may be thought that non-residents bring money in, but what about the

taxes and money residents spend all year long. My whole income of aprox. \$30,000 is spent in this state. Non-residents usually are well off who come here. It's becoming more difficult every year for residents of modest income to compete with non-resident money. I know this is a complicated issue but PLEASE don't forget those of us who live here and invest in our own future.

I feel the season is to long anymore and we may be getting to many outfitters in this end of Sanders County. We sure don't have the bulls we used to have. The archery hunters have increased by 30% over 5 years ago and to dam many outfitters.

I'm concerned with the number of out of state licenses going to the outfitters. I don't believe the family and friends of the residents of Montana should have less of a chance, or have to go through a outfitter to hunt in our state.

I'm extremely unhappy with ranchers moving their cattle off their own ground onto public ground to improve hunting opportunities on their private ground which they have leased to outfitters at the expense of those who cannot afford an outfitter. I spend time scouting before the season and the last two years on opening day of bow season have been greeted by a barn yard of cows that were moved in the week before opening.

To many out of state hunters, to many guides. Think that archery should be included in sportsman license. Need more access to private land.

To many outfitters and nonresident hunters. Lack of access. It is getting to be a rich persons sport to have a quality hunt.

In the area's I hunt elk 393 and 311 I have really noticed in the last few years that the logging (comotion) affects elk population in the location. Elk need security not like deer they will not calf and rut in areas with alot of commotion and no timber. Logging is fine in area's with alot of resources, but areas with small pockets of timber should not be logged. I also believe that the outfitters are really hurting the quality of hunting in MT. They don't care about the elk only the money. I also believe that bowhunters should have to pass a test before they are let hunt. In the past years I have really noticed alot of unqualified bowhunters. A bow in unqualified hands is not only stupid but very unfair to the animals.

I Feel the Fish & Game needs to work closely with the Landowners, and relay this information on to the Hunters, and to reduce the number of out of state license avabile there is way too many out of state hunters. Does the state really need the revenue that Bad!!!

One day there won't be any hunting in the state of Montana, unless you are rich. I realize the state is trying, but how high

is the Price on Montana?
P.S. I do have a good attitude.

I'm concerned with the excessively large numbers of our fitters and the use of private land owners to c? large c? access through their property. I'm also concerned about the use of fee charges by land owners.

I am glad to see this questionnaire and hope it will bring about some changes. Public access to good Forest Service ground is very limited in the area I hunt. Also the outfitter business is getting awfully big, damn near anyone with a four wheel drive is an outfitter anymore, which has a tendency to make landowners lease rights and limiting access.

I would like to see late hunts in certain cases, such as this year do to weather conditions. During rifle season it would be nice if the permits would stay at home and not given to out of state hunters. We feed the big game in our back yard it would be nice to take advantage of this our selves.

Being a beginner at bowhunting my lack of success may be due to inexperience or laziness or both. However I have gotten close enough to elk both years to make my try again. I will try new areas next year & maybe an outfitter to gain access to elk otherwise unavailable.

I would like to see Montana archery kept a challenging experience for montana hunters.!

Could use more transplants of elk in Northwest Montana & also believe we have to much pressure from outfitters during archery season, must cut this number down by 1/2.

There are too many out of state people that are allowed to hunt in MT.

I really don't understand why you are picking on archery hunters for your survey. We don't harvest that many animals, we don't need more regulation, we need to police our own sport. I moved from Illinois to Montana just because of the hunting. My feelings are that the outfitters are responsible for most of our problems in Montana!

To many cattle in the mountain at this time of year. To many out of stater coming in here & trying to tell us how to run our elk. Don't understand why we pay a fee for archery hunting.

They should open up more areas for deer, elk, & antelope so you don't have to pay no outfitter or pay the people who wons the land to go hunting on that land cuz there are alot of people who

like to hunt but don't have \$1000-\$1500 to get everything needed to go on a hunting trip. Regardless, you have to pay an outfitter almost \$1000 just for the trip and you aren't guaranteed an elk or any species of animal you're hunting.

I think hunting needs to be setup for all age groups. We need to make hunting accessible for young & old. We do not need more land locked up by primitive land to benefit a few, manly the guide service! I think the forest if for every one to enjoy, not jsut a few. If we make laws to benefit a few, the rest will be hurt.

I have only recently started bowhunting because gun rifle season is a joke as we never see any elk. The areas where elk are abundant on public land seems to always be tied-up by outfitters on access restricted by land owners - I ahve a lot more opportunity bowhunting in having access to elk but is much more challenging and rewarding. Elk do not seem pressured by bowhunters as by rifle hunters.

I feel that the Fish & Game Dept. caters to the whims of the outfitters. Big money is buying our best hunting. Most people in Montana do not have the money to pay for this type of hunting.

The Montana hunter is slowly being shut out of the better hunting areas.

I do not feel thay you may have to limit the number of bowhunters in a few areas such as in the "breaks".

The Fish-Wildlife & Park's Dept. have done a very effective job in the area I hunt. I think that if restrictions to bow hunting developoe it would deminish the enjoyment my son & I have together. If any restriction's need to be put in place it is the amount of out of state permits available. I live in this great state all year I pay state tax and do a lot of work for my town & state because I love it hear All Year!

I think that the either, or system would decrease the archery pressure.

I have only one complaint, that is some outfitters think they own public lands.

Outfitters doesn't seem to be a problem with ELK as much as with deer. First we have to pay for a deer lic. & a conservations lic & an Archery permit, then they want us to pay a total stranger that doesn't give a ____ about the land for the right to hunt deer. You people give him the right to make profit off of deer that he payed no money to raise in the first place.

To many outastate hunter's in archery & rifle serson. Make the licensers increase for outastate Hunter's & take in less of them. I think the moose drawing for licenses are rigid & no outastate

should be in it.

All in all I feel Montanas Archery season is fair to all concerned, including rifle hunters. I do feel lease hunting is getting out of hand and is unfair to the average sportsman, it is my feeling this has been encouraged by the Guides & Outfitters for monetary gain on their part. The losers are the average sportsman they buy hunting licenses.

Limit out of state licenses and stop the increasing numbers of outfitters. You can't sell the game, but they do.

The biggest problem in Montana is the problem of outfitters leasing private land & the guaranteeing of permits to outfitters by the state. I don't blame the landowners as it's a easy way to pick up cash for not doing anything. What it is doing is locking up land that I used to hunt. I think that these guaranteed permits to out fitters should be stopped.

I beleave that the Fish & Game within a few year, has to tie up some of the private propertys that comes up For Sale, or is being leased by Guides - for more hunting land for everyone not just the Ones with Big Money to pay guides on Land Owners for Hunting

I'm primarily an elk hunter when near their habitat. Bow as well as gun.

I don't agree giving a percentage of non-Resident big game licensed to outfitters & guides. Money seems to be the bottom line. I realize there is a lot of revenue to the State generated because of this.

I think the reigon I hunt for deer isnt very good because of Low population of Deer. It got low population because a few years back the out-of-state hunters killed most of the deer because the fish & wildlife department let so many tags be issued and the out-of-state hunter took advantage of this and bought as many tags they could. I think this is okay but out-of-state hunters don't have any respect for the use to be great hunting they shoot a deer and if it is not a buch or big enough they leave it lay. I know that all out of state hunters are not like this but I think most of them are. I know out of state hunters bring Montana a lot of money, But right know that isn't important. Because every year there are more & more out-of-state hunters coming into Montana abusing the land & abusing the wildlife. I think the 1988 hunting season we should limit the # of out of state hunters that should be let in Montana And give the Montana hunter a chance to hunt. I know that there are some Montana hunters that abuse the land & wildlife but not as many as out-of-state hunters. I hunt in District 703 You may not agree with me but thats okay. I think this mostly concern rifle season. Thank you

I think our Hunting is good the way it is.
The more hunting privileges Residents lose, the more out of state hunters get. As a Montanan I like my hunting. all of it. I dont apply for Elk archery Because I also like to Hunt with a muzzel loader and have been applying for Rifle-Genrol season permit. North Eastern Montana

I don't believe the outfitters & guides should get preference on out of State lic.

I really stress that outfitters shouldn't be able to scout animals with aircraft.

I feel the Mont. Guides are putting pressure on the MDFW&P to make changes in the Archery season (elk) to benifit themselves. The current system may not be perfect but I'm not sure we need to make radical changes.

The biggest problem we have is the hunter who "lets fly" arrows at Elk either at excessive distance (over 40 yds) or thru thick brush or bad angles - I have yet to take an elk with my bow (only a matter of time) but I also have never wounded one -

I would like to stress that the amount of out-of-state hunters is out landish and should be controlled.

There are more out state hunters then resident hunters. Consenquently the bigger bucks, bulls are very scarce and are hard if not imposible to find.

I think the number of non Resident Permits should be reduced, so we residents would have a better chance at drawing a permit.

Even tho I didn't shoot a Bull elk, Buling them in and begin able to come close to tough elk was great.

to h? trouphy elk arauud and hunt where I want to. Some areas that are resstricted to excess to public land is not right. destroying elk Habatat from politicis & money hungry out of State company's is not right. Give the edge to residents of Montana not out of Staters Hunters.

I feel that at present, In the areas I hunt most, any of the changes suggest in this survey are unnecessary. You talk about limiting licenses, The only license that need be restricted are non-resident I also feel strongly that I be able to hunt archery in any area, at any time in the season I choose, This type of restriction is totally unnecessary.

As for all the questions in section 8 I strongly oppose, and feel in these area's for the present at least, it's well enough left alone.

It appears that the fish & game is catering to Outfitters who are nothing more than Leaches on public domain.

I think Bow hunting for non residents should be banned & one segment of our hunting be strictly kept for the Montan hunters.

We have a good thing going here - let's attract all of the out-of-state money we can. Lets help the Mt Assoc of Outfitters where ever possible in all areas of Big Game hunting.

Nonresidents should be restricted if restrictions are needed.

I hunt public lands as a rule because I refuse to pay a landowner. for a tag already paid for. I'm realitively new to the archery game but I do find it most satisfying. This year (1987) I hunted the Fort Peck area because I was guarranteed a tag. I was very please with the number of game in the area but the number of hunters was almost unbearable. The particular area (Seven Mile Creek) I hunted held an average of 10-12 people daily. mostly out-of-staters. They bugled, meowed and crashed about all day everyday. I found this to very upsetting. Again, I would like to see the first two weeks of the season open to only those individuals who hold in-resident liscenses. Thanks for asking

I think any preference for any hunting in Montana (Archery & Rifle) should be given to Montanan's, I realize it brings in more revenue from out of state, but Montana's hunting should be for us. I also think that the fees we pay now are more than enough. Also the outfitters who make money guiding people should have no preference on any licenses and should have strict regulations imposed on them.

Limit the number of outfitters
Outfitters that lease private land

- 1) Should be taxed double
- 2) Land should be reclassified from agricultural to recreational and they the land owner should pay double
- 3) Leave the resident license fees alone.
- 4) Triple the out of state hunter fees

The program during antelope season in area 513 that the Dept has started is in my opinion a very good one. (Walk in program)
The main concern I think for the Mont sportsmen is for a better landowner, sportsman relationship. Once those 2 get along then Mont will always be a great place to hunt

The popularity of Mt. as a bow hunting state is increasing dramatically & there should be some concern over the numbers of out of state hunters especially in areas of current high bow hunting pressure. The use of ATV's off established 4x4 roads should not be allowed while bowhunting. The bowhunting season should be closed 2 weeks prior to rifle season but should have a 2 week post season hunt one week after the close of rifle season. Areas of high pressure should be put on a permit system with no out of state hunters allowed to apply.

I am disturbed that you want to make more money off of the archers. Rifle hunters do not have to pay for a special permit. I feel that the fish & Game is trying to eliminate the Montana Hunter in view of the money from out of state Hunters and outfitters. How can you allow out of state to guide in Montana.

It would Be safer if they had a party drawing hunt for Elk Archery. And it would help stop more then one person Hunting on one tag. Also to stop out of state hunting for Elk. We do not have enough Elk for out of state hunter's

Wildlife is not a commodity that should be allocated on the basis of who has the most money. or who makes the most money from it. By allocating non-resident licenses to guides & outfitters you are selling out the people of Montana and their out of state friends. We hunt for pleasure - not to reap monetary rewards from a public resource.

The outfitters control all the good hunting areas.

I would like to see less out of state Bow Hunters and more local residents - I would say to leave the resident lic. the same and raise the out of state.

It seems that we are slowly turning our Hunting Resources into "Big Business", This is very wrong - Montanans should always have top priority to its resources, - So quit pampering the OUTFITTERS - P.S. I outfitted for years myself!!!

QUESTION 8, PAGE 3 D & E - why Bow hunters? are you going to ask gun hunters these same questions. I think the F. W. & P. should leave archers alone, Leave our laws & seasons alone. We don't need any changes, but if you would cut the number of out of state hunters it would do the most good.

I feel that outfitters are turning hunting into a private enterprise. By buying control of private land outfitters are causing congestive hunting on and access to public lands.

Only have one problem and that's with the permit drawing it seems there is too many out of state getting permits over Montana residents.

The Fish & Game should stop issuing extra Deer tags to out of state hunters. They are just trying to find ways to get around the quota.

I would like to see fewer hunters like most, but none of the managing Ideas in this questionnaire appealed to me, out of state hunters banned would be my choice.

How Are You Going to Know Who's Name to put in the Drawing.

I think they should limit the amount of out of state hunters Archery or rifle hunters more than what they are.

I'm concerned with the (do anything) attitude with the outfitters and guides to get there clients game. In the past few years I've seen illegal camping, salting and border line tequinnues used by outfitters with clients. In September I had a out-of-state hunter draw back on me at 15 yds. He said he heard something coming, didn't know what! In Sept of 86 I had two hunters from Pennsylvania do the same thing, both times I was looking right down there sights. Scarry! These hunters I'm seeing give me the idea they'll shoot at anything that moves. I'm sure this was the situation with the two out of state Bow hunters who shot the Grizzly in the Virmillion River country two years ago. I think they figure if they're going to spend that much money to hunt, for such a short time period, they're going to shoot at something. OutFitters around the state are now making Bow hunting Videos, as was the case last fall in the Libby area. The commercialization of Bow hunting by people destined to make there annual income by it, will ruin the sport. If the State and Federal agencies are willing to saturate Montana with Outfitters and guides, They also must take the responsibility to do a better job of policing them. But as we all know with the cutback of funds. Wardens and Forest Service personell this is not likely to happen. I think if the Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing a cutback in the elk hunting season here in northwestern Montana, they should look at cutting back the number of outfitters also. I really enjoy Bowhunting and feel the elk, and deer populations here in Northwestern Mt. are as good as I have ever seen. I also see a alarming number of out-of-state Hunters here due to the fact that we still Have s? big Bulls left. I think with the increasing pressure of logging, Roding and sheer numbers of Hunters here in Mt., the state is going to have to consider reducing the number of out-of-state liscenses sold. Or else we may not enjoy what we have, and look at more cutbacks and restrictions down the road. Thank you.

Its good to see there being concern about the wildlife in Montana. Bowhunters, and hunters, care and appreciate what the Fish and game do for out wilderness and wildlife.

Thank you! from all outdoors man and hunters.

P.S. I've talked with alot of hunters, and people about the number of out of state hunters, and most if not all, Feel a guide should be required by law before out of state hunters should be aloud to hunt. Please bring this up with other members of the Department, possibly do another survey on the matter, I think you will find 90% or more will agree. Thank you.

Too many districts closed to archery hunting without good biological reason, but for terrible reasons like pressure from

outfitters. Example - area 323

Need to get rid of the out of state hunters, and outfitters.

It's time to reduce the # of guides & out of state permits that are issued for Montana.

I think Montana should cut down on out of state hunters which mostly hunt with rifles. Limit the number of guides and limit them to certain areas.

And why are you allways raising the price of tags.

- 1) Require out of staters to have guides,
- 2) Put caliber restrictions on guns and poundage, broadhead width restrictions on archers - 50lbs, 1 1/16" inch.
- 3) Require archers to pass a shooting proficiency exam - 12" at 30 yards.

Cut The out of staters licenses In half

there are to darn many out of state hunters that c? to this area.

I feel outfitters have increased in numbers too high to be tolerated.

I would like to see less out of state hunters and Less Guides because of the over crowding I have experienced in my area.

I am happy with the way the archery season is right now so don't screw with it. The answers to all the problems is not money. Charge the prices for the out of staters to:

1. Decrease the number of them. (out of staters)
2. Use that money for whatever, instead of the Residents. We live here they don't so why should our prices be raised?

No out of state hunters!

I believe that many of the State's hunting woes are due to the large number of outfitters and guides, the special license set-aside for them, and the tremendous power they wield as lobbists. Maybe we should limit outfitter licenses to no more than 400 and get rid of the special license set-aside.

I do not like the way The outfitters are getting their way with The Fish & Game Commision and above. Every time They want something they get it. I will not pay to hunt. Landowers Lease their ground and then complain about damages.

all out of staters should have to pay alot more then they haave to right now to even purchase a licence in out state

Elk-300 In staters have to pay less in montana.

Deer-200

Antelope- 150

less out of State hunters, longer hunting season for local people

In way of Thinking Fish & Game has went down hill in the last 20 years We pay more for hunting and get less. I they would out Politics Fish & Game would be better off. Forget about outfitters & giving them out state lic.

State taking care the people that are Rec. of Mont. and pay taxes and your wages -

You people sell lic. but not a place to hunt.

You might consider giving licenses to Ranchers so they can sell according to the deer they want to get rid of. Any time of the year.

The Fish & Game does Too much For the Outfitters and non Resident hunters.

Let them fend for themselves and take care of our Land owners that allow hunting without payment! quit trying to be too big.

I believe that we are allowing too many out of state hunters in. I also think that giving outfitter Preference should be stopped. Fee hunting is coming about because of out of state money bags buying game.

I think that the state should sell all of the out of state big game licenses instead of giving most of them to the packers. The state could gain more revenue from out of state licenses and hold down the cost of in state license.

The first shotgun blast at a grouse is a seasonal warning for the elk that archery season has arrived - keep them out of the higher elevations. say 5500 feet for at least awhile. Charge out of state people way more for licensing and use that money to increase habitat and especially maintain what we have now. Put way more limits on outfitters and charge them way more for licenses and especially keep a close eye on the shady characters. Make the outfitters let natives hunt (archery only) after a certain time when they have outfitted their people, But Please - think of us Montanans first!

I would like to see less out of state bowhunters coming to Montana. I would also like to see more control exerted on illegal outfitters.

I would like to see certain places, in most areas, be used as trophy Deer management areas. License's being allowed on a drawing basis to Residence & then Non Residence if numbers allow. It seems outfitting is getting out of hand, at least in my area.

In general the Fish & Game Commission is allowing too much out of

state pressure on our deer population and catering to "big money" aspect of out game. This has reduced the Montanans opportunity. Any news laws or regulations should consider the people who live and love the wildlife in Montana, who pay taxes here and live here 12 months per year.

If a sportsman can hunt with bow and a rifle, both season, then it is reasonable that he pay extra for the bow permit; otherwise there should be no extra charge for the bow permit. Please send me the results of this survey.

Increase fees for out-of-state hunters

Increase fines and penalties for game violations

Wages are low-Taxes and everyhting else keeps skyrocketing-Let's quit penalizing the Montana Hunter who respects hunting.

I moved to MT from N.M. In. N.M. We have short seasons-choose your season land owner control of permits-now choose your area and in the future draw for permits. That is why I live in MT!

If MT needs to decrease hunter numbers lets start by doing away with 17,500 non resident lise and 6,000 non res deer only lisc. Montana for Montanians.

My major complaint about hunting w/wo a bow in Montana is inexperienced out of state hunters spoiling a hunt. Everytime I was near elk this season, an out of state hunter rushed the spot and spoiled the hunt! Sometimes with the help of local rancher/outfitters.

Being a farmer, I am well aware of the economic condition of Montana. Being a hunter also, I hope you don't put it upon us to turn this thing around by raising license prices even higher. Let the 17,000 out-of-stateers do their part. In fact, during general season, there are mroe foreign license plates in the mountain than our own.

I strongly oppose the management actions on page 3. I think it's good we can still have a choice ot hunt with gun or bow or both, plus wherever we want to hunt.

This year in my area, a lot of whitetail deer died from the so-called blue-tongue disease. I saw at least a dozen myself. If hunter pressure would have been heavy, that wouldn't have left many deer. Most hunters went to a different area. That's a choice I hope will continue.

I would like to see out-of-staters hunter cut in half for gun season and think that there is to many outfitters.

I am deeply concerned at the number of out of state hunters

coming to Montana every yaer. In the general areas I hunt, there are about a 3:1 ratio of out of staters to residents. NOT GOOD. I feel that if outfitters are allowed to lease exclusive hunting rights on private land, thier access to public land should be severly limited.

My storngeest concern for not only archery hunting, but hunting in general is that the "guides" are leasing or buying to large a share of the hunting access rights. Our (Montana's) big game shoudl not be "sold". These guides, by closing so many ranch lands to hunting are forcing massive over-hunting of the ranches that are still open to hunting. Please- help stop the "selling" of Montana's big game animals.

There were no questions about non resident hunting presure this always seems to be a closed subject with the MDWP I favor cuting down non resident hunting presures state wide and raise the licence fee to \$600.00.

The thing that bothers me is the number of non-residents that hit elk and fail to find their wounded animals. Most of them don't care about the meat they want horns. Most residents depend on filling their freezers during hunting seasons.

I am getting real concerned about the number of guides in Montana and the control of them. There has been a significant amount of illegal guiding of residents and non-resident archers in my hunting area.

I would to see less out of state hunters durning all hunting seasons.

I would hunt bring meat home to my family but I get charged for that. No place to hunt because outfitter charge \$1000.00 to hunt or the hunters are from out of state. So I htink this will be the last year i hunt. If I wanted to pay that kind of money I would buy beef, pork, lamb, Its cheeper.

Kick out, out of staters. Keep Montana game for Montanas annd Montana familys that need the meat.

To maney out of state hunters. To maney outfitters with special hunting privilage. To maney closed gates. Mist my elk in 1987 because of dam airplains out playing games in S. Fork.

The fish and game needs to quit cattering to the guides should not be able to have a percentage of the out of state licenses, thats a heck of a monopoly quit raising our license and start raising the out of state, they can afford it or else they wouldn't be here. The fish and game are pressing towards having a state where its all guided with the pressure the guides are putting on at Helena, the guides wifes are sure doing a good job

in Helena. Again this year the guides get a percentage of the licenses. I've never seen a questioner on how many guides we should have in each area. and how many big game animals should each guide be able to harvest.

If there is buffalo living on private ranches why does the ranchers have so much power in keeping the buffaloes in the parks. There has never been a known case of the disease that the cattle mens association is so afraid of the buffalo running loose. They don't want the competition of the buffalo on the land they lease from the government.

If archery hunters fees are increased to \$20, so should rifle

Outfitters should not be guaranteed a job. My job isn't guaranteed, let free enterprize work. The animals are what you need to manage but not outfitters jobs. Knapweed is a concern in the mountains close roads for that reason, we can't afford to fight weed spread by truck and ATV's (I'm not a farmer just concerned)

Don't let spikes be hunted, it's hard to hunt branch bulls when someone killed him last year as a spike.

I wish the out of state hunters would be drastically reduced also pay hunting should be stopped.

I feel less licenses should be sold to out-of-state hunters. To give Montanians a bigger chance to get their fill. After all we live here.

I think the outfitters are killing to many elk because of their experience and time to hunt, the elk become to easy of prey for the high paying dollars and the outrageously high numbers of out of state hunters.

I feel that we have enough wilderness and walk in areas. Should cut down on out of state license. Also the wilderness & walk in areas are only padding the outfitters pockets with out of states money and the people of Montana can effectively harvest the game if we don't create more walk in areas and wilderness. Strongly believe in harvesting female over population with special permits and late season hunts.

The out of state hunters paying high prices for outfitters and access are making it too expensive for the average Montana resident hunter to compete. How long before only the rich will be able to hunt? Reduce the non-resident licences or find another way to stop this trophy for a price hunting. I hate to see people making a living off animals that the hunters support through fees on licences.

I greatly fear that hunting is becoming a thing of the past for residents of Montana, chiefly due to non-residents who are willing to pay exorbitant prices to hunt the game that all sportsman have paid to nurture with license fees and Pittman-Robertson tax, etc. I live in the heart of the best mule deer country in Montana, yet find it very difficult to get access. The Dept of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has got to stop catering solely to outfitters and non-residents. Reserving licenses for outfitters encourage land closure, and shutting out of residents!

More laws & enforcement of outfitters.

pertaining to? in part 2. I am opposed to any restrictions on archers as to restricting hunting areas, reduction in seasons, permit drawings, limits on liscs for residents that are not also applied to rifle hunters. Do not bend to outfitters pressure to limit bow hnting because it "Ruins their" buisness!! if outfitters were smart they would be promoting archery instead of trying to stop it. I would like to see an either/or regulation on non-resident hunters.

I think the hunting regs in Montana are good. Only thinks that are bad are to many out of staters hunting. And private land owners being to harsh on the average hunter

Would like to see more serveys like this one. Would like to see the areas, horses and guides limited. If closed & to motorized vehicles then be closed to horses too foot travel only areas. More restrictions on how you hunt in Mont. Make out of ataters have a small game licenses just to carry a gun or bow in our state.

Thanks for the chance to give my opinion.

It seems like an awful lot of private land is no longer available because outfitters have leased the land. They are being gauranteed good hunting grounds. I know there are some good points to it, but I feel that it has gotten out of hand. Outfitters have been able to acquire most all the good hunting grounds.

We have somany out of state hunters coming in to area's 100-101- that it is getting to the point where its getting sickening to go hunting. they're every place you go. Dudes come in late season and shoot all the big bucks Spring bear in this area should be closed entirely, I am a logger and I see alot of time in the woods and have lived in this area for over thirty years. the answer is not to sell outsiders 6,000 more deer tags to grab the money. Shorten the seasons. Grouse season is open forever they will soon be a thing of the past. Everone that goes to a road gets shot or run-over- Bear is almost gone you don't see many or much sign. Make the out of state hunters hire outfitters. They do the first year then come back without one.

1) restrict # out of state hunters. esp. Washington Idaho.

There are far too many Idaho hunters in the woods!! (no kidding there are just too many out of state hunters. it's good for outfitters but do you care about local people? I think not. Convince me, that you care. I want to hear from you.

2) Idea for areas 200,201,202,121,122,123 subsistence hunting tag for local hunters only.

rules

1) local resident for min. 5 yrs

2) restricted to one locality (county)

3) limit; 1 elk - either sex

2 deer - either sex whitetail

1 deer - either sex either sp.

1 bear - same rules

\$28,000 income or less 3 or more in family unit not per person

4) Do away with all cow tags in subsistence counties.

5) this change will eliminate poaching by locals (there is more of it than you think!)

I came from South Dakota where there is a minimum of 5 to every 1 of your wildlife game animals I feel that your management of wildlife here is overhunted by outfitters & pro guides (wildlife is a sport, not a profitable business. I feel that the dollar\$ and outfitters along with poor Dept. mis-management have been the set back

Wake up before its too late I have hunted in South Dakota for 34 years, Colorado 4 years and now 2 years in Montana. I have always heard stories of the great hunting in Montana, I was tearably misinformed, this has been my worst hunting experience in my 40 years of game hunting

Elk hunting with either Bow or rifle here in Sanders County has entirely too much outside pressure - especially from the guides who not only hunt their own areas but all others also. That is wrong. Further comment- I hunted elk and deer the last week of rifle season in district 121 (Taft summit)(crow creek). One outfitter from upper prospect creek had 12 hunters in this area with atv's (each one) and were using automatic weapons small caliber such as A-R-15's. This is a very good area to hunt and I sincerely believe the fish and game commission should try and put a stop to such things. The hunters probably fired over 60-70 rounds in a two hour period after day break. This information was reported to our local game warden.

Hire local people for game wardens. Don't allow Game wardens or Fish & Game Commissioners or employees to put in for Moose Big Horn sheep, Mountain goat, and special Elk permits. Archery or Rifle. Do more for resident hunters. Fewer out of state hunters raise out of state fees not the resident hunter fees. If they can afford to drive out here they can afford to pay higher fees. If pay hunting coming. Let the farmer or rancher get fee from

the hunter who shoots a animal on there land. The hunter can give part of his tag to farmer or rancher, he send it in to Fish and Game and collects.

Don'tgive kill permits to farms or rancher. Who don't allow public hunting, or askfor hunters.

One thing that is most upsetting to me is the out of state hunters. I feel Montana could pick up extra revenue by increased fees. Out of staters should be charged more & the increase should be used for hunting improvements.

I think MT should cut down on the out of state licences being drawn and less given to the outfitters.

12. COMMENTS ON EQUIPMENT. BOW VERSUS RIFLE. CROSSBOWS, PRIMITIVE WEAPONS, ETC.

I dislike rifle hunting more every year do to type of hunters that it draws.

I would like to see cross bows legalized for the archery season. I am opposed to a archery only or rifle only hunting season, both should be available one season.

Why tho threats in #8? Archery has for less impact then the rifle season.

Have heard many rifle hunter say that archers disturb the elk before they have a chance to hunt. I do not believe this to be true from watching elk move only a very short distance once an archer has been seen or heard. Hunting bothseasons gives a person, that can only hunt on weekends or occassionaly a greater chance of success.

I think it would be terrible to legalize the use of crossbows in the Montana archery season. I would even mind seeing the abolition of all mechanical bows in our archery season. I plan on switching to the recurve in the 1988 hunting season.

Keep the crossbows out of archery season.

I takes twice as much skill to use non-mechanical bows so would reduce the number of game killed yearly.

This was my first year archery hunting. I did shoot a target bow for six years 20 years ago and am impressed with the advancement of compound bows in this time. I have hunted big game with a rifle most of my life and killed eight bull elk. I am not convinced in my own mind, archery hunting of elk is a sporting way to kill a bull elk, although I am a better than average shot with a bow. I will hunt another year and then decide if I will continue with a bow as means of killing my bull.

I feel the entrance of crossbows to the sport of archery wouldbe much like using machine guns for general rifle season. Any chum could buy one and begin killing animals, without being dedicated enough to the sport to practice, scout, and rely on stealth as you must presently do in archery. I also believe in (either or) hunting. You should be able to hunt with a gun or bow, but not both.

We must insure that crossbows are never allowed in the general archery season!

While some of the most dedicated bow hunters are longbow

shooters, a sad fact is 9 out of 10 longbow hunters draw little more than half the bow's weight and are extremely poor shots. If one type of bow is ever eliminated, it should be the longbow.

Compound bow hunters have undue advantage and by letting them hunt defeats the purpose of bow hunting.

I think bowhunting is a better sport than rifle hunting. The seasons are just right to hunt the elk because they are in rut. Bowhunting is a challenge to get near the game, but with rifle hunting it isn't a challenge, you can shoot them at 300 yards away.

I hunt the same areas both archery and rifle seasons and I see no significant problems caused by bow hunters as far as spooking game, etc. The very nature of bow hunting precludes disturbing game to any significant degree. What spooks game are road hunters who roar all over creation blasting away at some critter at a dead run to get out of the territory. I almost always take my game under 100 yards (including antelope) and mostly under 50 yards and hardly ever running - during rifle season. I have an idea that rifle hunters who complain about bow hunter's spooking game are either awful poor hunters under any conditions or too lazy to get out of their 4x4 and still hunt a little bit.

I went to a Townsend Rod and Gun club meeting about 6 months ago. To here a bunch of old coots say bowhunters just get drunk. They get all the game frightened and tear stuff up and worst fling arrows all over. I say bull I don't drink and shoot. I pass up alot of shots waiting for what I think is a perfect shot. I and most bow hunters take the time to learn to track and learn animal habits. I feel the average Joe with a rifle deserves this pressure.

1) Crossbows have nothing to do with bow hunting! There would be no chance for elk if crossbows were ever allowed in archery areas. 2) Archery seasons are underutilized while rifle season are being overrun. Day for day archery hunting provides 10 times the nonconsumptive recreation as rifle hunting. For your money, everything should be done to encourage more hunters to switch from rifle to archery.

I hunt with a bow more than a rifle and I honestly feel rifle season should be shortened and archery season should stay the same with a few changes (minor changes at that).

I think that cross-bows should never be legalized. Also a minimum of a 60 lb. bow should be used for elk hunting.

I do so believe that to allow crossbow hunting in archery season would be extremely wrong--- a real step backward for archery - and for "fair chase". I do so believe an "either or" season

setting would evolve a very inflexible archer - who would be demanding more weeks afield - i.e. another 4 weeks after rifle season ends.

Keep the cross bow out of archery only seasons.

1) I believe that mechanical calling devices should be illegal because they are too efficient. 2) A limited cross-bow season should be implemented (2 weeks?) in only those areas where an excess of game has been determined. 3) Landowners who encourage hunters should also benefit, in part, from license fees. I would be willing to pay more to encourage that.

Why do bowhunters have to buy a special license to hunt with a bow? A rifle hunter buy's only a tage. We need more access to public and Forest Service lands. How many time does a rifle hunter shoot at an animals at 250 or 300 yards, and the animal runs over the hill and drops? We never hear about that.

Archery season should be limited to longbows and compound bows although there should be some limitations on the compound itself. Cross bows should never be used in archery season. Thank you, for your concern to archery season.

As a whole I think people who hunt with a bow are more responsible sportsman.

I would say archery has minimal effect on elk. Suggest drawing for elk by area for rifle season. This is where we need more regulations since it impacts elk more. Chose your area and hunt it all season. Shorten rifle season by one week. Then you could increase archery by one week.

Both archery and rifle hunting are very important to me but if given the choice of either or, I would go with archery. I also would like to see more preference for the Montana resident.

I am opposed to hunting birds with rifle during archery season.

No way should you make people choose between archery or rifle hunting. Why do you charge archers a fee to hunt with a bow when it is the most sportsmanlike way to hunt. Rifle hunters should be penalized - not archers.

I would strongly like to use a crossbow during bow season. There's not a chance to use it during rifle season. It has the same capabilities as a compound bow.

Why haven't you done a survey of rifle hunters? Why not start a mandatory return of big game harvest information before issuing big game licenses? Why not have a mandatory fire arm hunter education course? Most people I know who bowhunt do so for the

increased challenge. They are in general better more ethical hunters than the average rifle hunter is.

If this questionnaire was because of complaining by non bowhunters I think they had better take a hard look at their own ranks. The current bowhunter education course required for under 18 was asked for by bow hunters not by rifle hunters.

If the crossbow or muzzle loader is ever made legal for elk during the bugle season, the bull kill would be tremendous and would be a total disaster. It is not real hard to get within crossbow or muzzle loader range of a bull during the rut but it is hard to get close enough to get a proper shot with a bow.

I would like to see area 260 opened too blackpowder hunters. There are numerous whitetail deer here in this riverbottom district and I don't believe that archery hunters harvest amounts to much.

I think bow hunting is dangerous, inaccurate and should be eliminated. Too many elk and deer are wounded and not tracked. I do not hunt with a bow and no member of my family does.

Reduce the archery season by three weeks for a statewide muzzle loading season.

There is nothing you can do about it, but what bothers me is, during rifle season I always hear hunters say they saw deer or elk with an arrow stuck in them, either running around or lying dead. I think that if archery season was after rifle season, we'd see a lot of wounded or dead animals from rifle hunters. This just gives archery hunters a bad name.

I would like to see crossbows included in the archery season.

Thank you for your interest in the archery season. I am strongly opposed to the use of crossbows in Montana. Would like to see a "post season" for archery hunters.

With the equipment available today anyone can archery hunt. With practice anyone can shoot with accuracy. In total numbers I hear about more game being wounded with rifle than archery. The season is during a time of the season when about any vehicle can get you into the mountains. What this all amounts to is that archery only discriminates against people who are lazy to take up the sport. I constantly hear about the advantage archery hunters have - it's not because the gun hunter doesn't have an equal opportunity. I think the early Forest Service road closures for the archery season is largely a result of F & G input. I haven't read any research that substantiates that the archery hunter is significantly and permanently displacing elk nor are they reducing the "bugling" elk in numbers that effect the big bull

genes either short-term or long-term.

Take more elk from Yellowstone Park and plant them where they won't starve to death. Also there are more elk wounded with a rifle than with a bow.

The elk herd in my favorite area has been decimated (N and W of Rollins, west shore Flathead Lake) during rifle season. How about archery only areas like fly fishing only rivers. Must be good habitat in some portion of area.

I feel that bow hunters receive out of proportion preference in the setting of season lengths and other regulations. Many times these preferences are at the expense of the general public who hunt with rifles. I feel that I or any other good bow hunter could hunt just as successfully during the general season as during a special archery season.

I think that archery only seasons, should only be implemented when other type seasons (rifle) are not practical. I feel that archery and use of primitive weapons are a matter of personal choice and should not be, either, regulated for or against.

Crossbow hunting should be legalized in area 260 from the Buckhouse Bridge near Missoula to the West Fork Bridge south of Darby. Archery hunting alone is not yielding a satisfactory harvest of the whitetail deer.

Cross bows should be allowed - let animals last. A lot of areas the hunting area is too open and the success ratio is about 50 to 1 of getting close enough to shoot.

If elk season is altered for archery to the extent that we either can't hunt then or else have to compete with rifle hunters, it would be ruined for me. Bugling season is the only time archers have a fair chance to take a bull elk. If push came to shove I would be willing to be limited to bull's only during bow season so the rifle hunters could have more cow tags.

I think if it were legal to use a crossbow in the archery only areas like the Bitterroot River bottom, more hunters would try for them. it's so bushy that it's almost impossible to use the bow. None of the guys I know will go out for these whitetails anymore. I guess we'll just let the cars kill them. It's a waste.

In reference to page 5 questions 12 and 13, our hunting for meat as well as sport. The options to hunt with a bow and later on a rifle enables a serious hunter to prescout the hunting districts while bow hunting.

Rifle season should be shortened by at least three weeks.

Bow hunting is more or less secondary to rifle season. If we were allowed only to hunt in one season, I would stop bow hunting.

I think hunters who wish to should be able to use a cross bow in bugling in a bull elk.

I believe that crossbows should be allowed for the handicapped. I have had three heart attacks and surgery and cannot pull my bow to full power anymore but I still wish to hunt and have a reason for being out in the woods.

I am not a bow hunter but I feel the bow hunting priorities do discriminate against rifle hunting.

I think if they took away gun rights there would definitely be a lot more game to shoot in future, especially for bow hunters. And a lot less fatal accidents and a lot less long shots and fatally wounded hunters.

Archery season is my favorite time. I feel no pressure like I do in rifle season. Please, don't take away any of the freedoms we have now. Do not legalize crossbows or Black powder during Archery season. Compounds with release and overdraw are close enough.

Pods should be legalized and there is nothing wrong with crossbows.

Special branch antlered regs (asin 380) should not apply to archery season: Break between seasons should be opened to black powder-open sights only. - The opening day slaughter of rifle season in local areas _____ me off - maybe some pre-rifle season booming would alert the elk a bit. - Don't ever legalize crossbows for archery hunting (Perhaps during a black powder season?)

I am concerned about influx of new compound bow hunters. Their attitude misses the true meaning of archery hunting which for me is knowing the animal & its ways and being able to stalk or track close for a killing shot. Their attitude seems to be can't get close enough get a bigger poundage bow to shoot farther. This could be making for even more wounded animals getting away & dying. It seems like the bad apple weekend rifle hunters are now starting to encroach into the archery hunting with the advent of these new more powerful compound bows. Thank you & Good Luck.

Cross bows have nothing in comon with other bows. Other bows require holding weight, tuning, skill, practice, patience, stalking, getting close, to have S?, Not just how many arrows you can afford to buy like bullets.

I would like to see Black powder Rifle season for elk.

I do feel if there is any cross bow or black powder, they should be used during rifle season.

I completely oppose cross bow hunting.

A crossbow or black powder season should not shorten the archery season. I think crossbows and blackpowder guns should only be legal to use during the regular rifle season, or give the crossbows and black powders their own season by shortening the rifle season.

Q #8 - I would highly favor drastic actions if cross-bows were legalized, such as shorten seasons, drawings, etc. which I believe would benefit the game more than the high wounding rate, or lost game.

Part II, quistion #6 I would like to see a short season for cross bows & black powder.

Ref Question #8a I feel either/or would do two things 1) out undo pressure on game during rifle season & 2) Divide hunters and worsen bowhunter/riflehunter tensious. #8bcfg I archers are limited enough by the equipment we choose and archery success ratios don't warrant further limitations in these areas. #6 crossbows have too great a range and elk herds would be decimated. We also need more enforcement of and more strinsent game laws to eliminate slob hunters. Mainly in the rifle seasons.

Bow hunters as a whole are more dedicated and sportsman concience than any other recreationists. We need more education among rifle hunters to dispell myths about our sport. I spend the entire year shooting and preparing for archery season as do most bowhunters. Rifle hunters cannot say that.

In our area more elk are killed on the opening day of rifle season than in the entire archery season so I don't feel bowhunting pressures are having a negative influence on game populations.

I'll be 75 years old on January 28th and have hunted with recurves for 24 years and 7 years with Longbow. Its my favorite weapon and I I never used a compound bow and some people who are using them are sure breaking laws, with their lighted sight pins, I've seen them out there in pitch dark waiting for game. I have hunted with bow since 1956 and have shot 24 deer including 1 pape & young mule deer. 2 Antelope, 1 turkey, many rabbits gophers, 5 rattlesnakes .

Many cowpies in practice sessions, etc. My favorite longbow was made by Herb Meland, formerly of Glendive MT. My next one was made by Ron Maulding, Bozeman, MT.

I think archery hunting should be stoped and open up a Black Powder Hunt in the place of archery. I don't think there is to menny deer & Elk that get shot with a bow are killed and found. Thay just go off and die. That is a wast of meet. I will not buy a archery sision agine. If you would open a Black Powder seasion I would buy the lisions & a lot of my friends would like to see a Black powder sesion.

If you want to shorten the hunting season why don't you shorten rifle season. They take more game then archery season ever thought of taking.

I hope this is a step forward by the Fish, Game & Parks to better understand & realize the value of archery hunting rather than treating it in after thought. Cross bows have no place in archery season. If they want to use crossbows let them do so during the gun season. Crossbow mfg. are the only ones lobbying for crossbows in archery season & greed is their motive!

Compound bows and sights should not be permitted. Lets go back to the basics. Recurve or long bows. Remember the ways of Ishi.

Not directly connected with archery- But I really would like to see a muzzle loading season in MT. (Like Colo. has). Each hunter would only get to hunt in one season per year (archery, muzzle loading or regular rifle). MT needs to do a better job of unit by unit game management.

I do not think archery season should be open to crossbows.

Magazines: Outdoor Life, Fur, Fish & Game, Bowhunter, and Archery world. One or all support the following.

1) Page 3, Question 8,a 2) Page 2, question 7,e
1) Any time either or has been tried in other states it has caused hard feeling between gun & bow hunters. "Hunters" must stick together, whatever weapon they choose and whatever compromises are needed to insure hunting in the future. Anti-hunting groups thrive on this.
2) As you're well aware, recurve, long bow & compound bows are all hand held and releiced. "Only practice" will make one efficient. Arguing or debating as to which is "best" will only take away from the sport (Art) of archery. Cross bows are nothandheld and have noplace in archery seasons. But, consider severelyhandicapped people for there use.

Thank You! , for your concern about archery!

I can't help but wonder why all the concern lately is directed at Bowhunters when it seems to me that Rifle hunters in their numbers cause far more overall problems. I suppose it boils down to the economics question like everything else. Money talks!

Rifle hunting for elk in Montana is very poor - few elk, too many hunters, archery hunting does not disturb elk like rifle hunting does. Restrictions should be placed on rifle hunting elk - not archery. I know this will not happen because of the dollars involved in rifle hunting.

Muzzle loaders should only be allowed to hunt during the general gun season -- never during the "bugling" or archery season.

I don't think crossbows should be categorized as bows but be put in the gun division. or outlaw them all together for hunting

How about a combined Archery - Muzzle loader season. I much prefer hunting without the tremendous pressure and would prefer to use a muzzle loader. Hopefully there wouldn't be that many more people in the field.

I would like to see a 3 or 4 week primitive weapons hunt to include muzzle loaders. Also, with a hunt like this, hunters would be required to choose between primitive weapons and general hunting but not both.

I think archery hunting has become very popular in the last ten years, therefore increasing the need for some hunters to use specialized equipment to increase their chances for success. There should be guidelines which monitor the advances in the use of this unneeded advance.

My only feeling is I would like to see a special black powder season about the same time - as you only get one shot with a muzzle loader & it must be a very close shot just like a bow & would give more people opportunity to put meat in the freezer. Your welcome.

at 70 years of age my strength is not that good a crossbow would help
50 lbs is my limit

In areas where we have to draw for elk - then we should choose as to hunt with a bow or a rifle - not both - Anyone should be allowed to hunt with bow & arrow - the success rate will not be very high - then the ones that archery hunt-shouldn't be able to put in for drawing for rifle - Make these hunters make a choice - this will take some of the pressure off the elk - in the special areas because the people who have good elk hunting in open areas (Western Mont. mainly) will choose to stay home & hunt with their rifles unless they are truly dedicated bow hunters, then they may choose to go to these special areas. There are too many archery hunters in the (Missouri River Breaks.) They put the run on them - since they can be found daily because of the open area. (where there are no special drawing - then I think individuals should be

able to hunt with bow in archery season & rifle season.

I dislike either or choices and am opposed to making an issue on equipment excepting the cross bow. The cross bow need never be allowed! If I am limited to archery only on drawings why am I not receiving more permits like rifle antelope hunters? I do not like giving up a chance on the big game drawing for rifle hunting because I bow hunt. Increasing prices of tags should only be for land acquisition and feeding programs. Also, we could rebate part of a license to landowners who let us hunt. (when a hunter is successful on private lands.)

A summer heart attack spoiled my 1987 hunt. Answered questions anyway. Now, hunting has become a major part of my therapy in that I am able to hunt with others as opposed to alone as before. Extended season crossbow, etc., help me to get out and get meat which my family uses and needs.

COMMENTS TO YOUR ARCHERY SURVEY

1) Question #6 Part II

Cross Bows Require little effort on one's part to shoot. How much easier it is to just pull a trigger, that to hold back the string of the long bow - re-curve or compound. Range is also a great factor between these bows. It takes a greater effort and ability to gauge or judge the range needed to hit your target than that of a crossbow & scope. Crossbow's should in my judgement be legal only in rifle season.

2.) Question #7c.

The increase of big game is in need to many areas less populated than areas such as near Yellow Stone Park. I can't understand why late season hunting is allowed just to cut down large herds. Transplant some from the large herds' population's to less populated areas. Late season permits to hunt elk not only end up with a cow being taken. but all so the loss of an unborn calf being's late hunt's are generally in a time when cow's are heavy with calf. Is this necessary?

3) Question #8a Part II

Opposed, I bow hunt for the challenge & sport. With my bow I hunt for a trophy as well as the meat, Yet if I fail with my bow it's rifle season I count on to provide my table with meat. So if having to make choice between season I feel it would rob me a chance to enjoy the hunt.

4) Question #10 part II

Bow licenses as well as rifle season licenses tags should be required be for opening day and not sold after opening day. I feel if this should happen it would stop the hunter that hunts, then after getting his or hers game purchasing a tag to make it look legal. There are to many so called hunters that pull just what I have mentioned above. Thank you for an interesting survey

I like to see a black power season for big game. At the same time as archery season, like some of the other states do. Also,

cross bow should be legal during archery season.

I would like to see a Primitive Weapon's (Black Powder) season 2-4 weeks after general rifle season. My thoughts are that it could commence after the holidays in those areas where the big game harvest was not sufficient for population control vs feed.

I would not like to see x-bow, muzzle, or choice of Bow or Rifle hunting in Montana! If the 2 week post season hunt is being considered at all, I am strongly all for it. This would be a great advantage to the Bow hunter as the rut sometimes begins then; (at least the Bugling where I hunt)

In my opinion, the archery season should be turned to a primitive weapons season enabling the use of bows & black powder guns. The season should be arranged to have snow present for tracking.

I believe that use of cross bow could reduce the wounding rate by providing a more accurate tool. Under the best of conditions a long bow in a hunting situation can cause wounded & lost animals. I've heard of people wounding and losing 2 to 3 bull elk in one season.

- 1) I think most of us do not take vacations to bowhunt. We hunt near home on weekends & evenings - Need long seasons.
 - 2) The best way to eliminate the opportunist bowhunter is to not allow the compound bow for hunting.
 - 3) I expect that you will find that over 80% of bowhunters also rifle hunt. In other words, bowhunters are not separate people, bowhunting is just an added activity. Do not interchange the words.
 - 4) The crossbow should not be allowed as a hunting weapon because of tradition - historically it was mainly a European military weapon.
- It should also not be allowed because it is an effective weapon. That logic would also apply to machine guns. These points apply to general season use as well.

I am not against crossbows, however they should be placed with muzzle loader or handguns. I think the people who enjoy these weapons should be allowed a season. My biggest concern for hunting in Montana, is hunting access to public land, State, BLM, National Forest. I fail to see the reason for a bow hunting needing to pay more for a hunting license than a rifle hunter. Do we enjoy it more? I would be happy to discuss in greater detail many of the questions addressed.

AGAIN: I would like to see a primitive hunting law passed saying you can use either Modern rifles or primitive weapons (Bows & Flintlock rifles {Flintlock only}) Then I will go along with the hunting only during one season.

I favor allowing the use of crossbows for handicapped bowhunters (ie wheelchair - confined) during archery season, in designated areas.

I am new to the sport so my knowledge is limited on many things. The one thing I am adamantly against is crossbow hunting. I don't think it should be allowed at all but especially not during archery.

Issues that concern me:

Cross bows are not bows don't legalize them!

Don't shorten season in favor of rifle - game is not very disturbed by normal levels of bowhunting.

Don't think that major amounts of game is lost due to arrow wounding. The rifle-wounded loss is much greater. I & my family seldom lose a hit animal with a bow. Groups I was in lost at least 3 antelope and 2 deer this year. I feel these animals all died.

Part II, #6 I would like to see crossbows legalized for big game hunting in MT, but with a 1-2 week season of its own. Possibly between archery & firearms seasons.

I believe the use of a crossbow during the archery season would reduce the amount of elk & deer that get away with arrows stuck in them by other types of bows. This would reduce the suffering of the animals.

I would like to see archery season lengthened by 2-3 weeks, - earlier, the antelope had already rutted by the start of the '87 season. Crossbows should be allowed, but only the last week of archery season, and hunter orange must be worn by all. Crossbows during general season should be considered. Thank you.

Several of the subjects addressed in limiting the pressure by archery hunters are more seriously violated by rifle hunters; I do both and find many more people who are not serious hunters using rifles and road hunting, also rifle hunter do far more off road driving of ATV's due to the archers need for quiet and patients. Finally the purchase of tags by opening day would decrease the problem of kill first then buy.

Cross-bow maybe an effective method of controlling excess deer populations. Because of the increased accuracy - more people would purchase & use the cross-bow for deerhunting t? or harvesting more animals in these populated areas ie the Bitterroot - 260 - where rifle is too dangerous.

I think the elk season is being run about right for archery. Its the rifle season I'm disgusted with. thats one reason I hunt with a bow.

Dear sirs,

Besides the challenge of hunting elk, deer, etc. with a bow, I hunt them mainly for meat. There's more challenge hunting with a bow and there's not as many people out hunting them at this time. Our local hunting grounds are very populated during rifle season.

I don't believe that the archer should be charged more for their license or stamp than they are at present. If the Fish and Game Dept. needs more funds for operational needs etc I feel it should be made up by the out-of-state hunters.

I also believe that any out-of-state hunters booking with an outfitter should have preference in the drawings over the non-booking out-of-state hunters. I know of many who book for one year to learn an area, then just by a license and come on their own to the same area year after year. This doesn't bring as much revenue into the state, and many outfitters are being cheated out of their business. We are interested in the economy of the state and our wildlife plays an important role in our economy.

So far, Montana hasn't had any problems selling their out-of-state permits.

I am dissatisfied with the ratio of bulls to cow elk in our area. I believe the elk population has increased lately but there are more dry cows than one with calves. In some areas the cow season should run longer or a restriction put on the amount of spikes taken.

Our deer population has definitely decreased recently. I believe this is due to the increase of elk and big horn sheep in our area.

I am very interested in the management of out big game animals and believe yours is a hard working department.

I hunt both with bow and rifle but I feel there is a growing controversy between the two types of hunters. My guess is JEALOUSY. Because bow hunters get first crack at them. To me that's no reason to complain. I feel they are both fine sports in themselves. Hope our future hunting in Montana continues towards sportsmanship and enjoyment.

Response to F E.: Is and will continue to be controversy between primitive equipment shooters & compound shooters. The very simple truth is that compounds are 15%-20% faster than primitive equipment and far more accurate at ranges to 40 yards. Cleaner kills go to the compound shooter. Don't get involved in favoring primitive equipment over compound shooters. Already enough unnecessary friction.

Most importantly, do not allow crossbows in the field with longbows (primitive & compound). Too much like having a rifle in an archery area. They are commonly seen scope sighted and require no physical effort to aim. An unfair situation particularly to bugled elk or tree stand hunting whitetails. Thank you.

Sorry about not sending this in time for the drawing. Next time

please specify in large letters "dated material". I didn't even read the first page until late. P.S. I feel crossbows would be an unfair advantage as well as having black powder season during the Elk rut season.

Please don't allow black powder or any other type fire arm to be used during bow hunting season for big game.

I regards to making it legal to hunt with a cross bows during bow season; would do nothing but bring many people who really don't understand the reasons for bowhunting, into competition with true bow hunters. This proposition should not even be considered!

I don't think crossbows should be used during bow season because it would be too easy to kill animal hunters should be able to buy thier licenses when ever they want or need to.

Do not approve crossbows for any season - Propose opening goat, sheep, & moose season early for archery hunters-

Please keep crossbows out of the Archery season. Please help sportsmen to gain access to public lands surrounded by private property. keep livestock off public property so that game animals may live in their natural environment. Teach police ethics & professional courtesy to your law enforcement officers who represent you in the field.

I feel that anyone who chooses the challenge of bowhunting should not have to compete with the total slob who would use a crossbow if you are going to do this you may as well forget the special archery season.

In reference to page 3 question 8 I don't think this is necessary & I think if the time ever comes to do this a bowhunter should be given a chance to draw a rifle permit before he be made to make this decision.

I hope the future stays like the past concerning crossbows. Crossbows should not be allowed during Bow season.

I feel physically handicapped only should be allowed to hunt with crossbows. Restrictions would be placed on the type or what is considered physically handicapped.

Increasing the cost of licenses to \$20 would lower the total amount of money taken in by archers. There are not that many "serious" archers to make up the difference.

I want no restriction on archery hunting except all hunters must use a 65 lb bow or better for sure kill with killer broadheads Remember it is extremely difficult to kill further than 60 yards with a bow/so the limitations of success has no effect on how many are hunting & vise versa.

Even though I am also an avid rifle hunter I still get the strong impression the Fish & Game Commission gets heavy pressure from rifle hunting groups to limit archery hunting in some way in order to help hunting conditions. I strongly suggest from 20 years of hunting in Montana that perhaps the rifle hunting season needs to be more strongly regulated rather than archery - especially the first chaotic week.

Many others and myself feel that the problems lie in rifle hunting, not archery. Something must be done before hunting in Montana is completely ruined. During rifle season, thousand upon thousands of irresponsible hunters (mostly out-of-state) are tearing up the country with 4x4's and ATV's, shooting at most anything that moves. This I have seen many, many times, with my own eyes.

Nearly every ridge or canyon is cross-crossed with 4 wheel drive and ATV tracks. Even those posted with "No Vehicle" signs. It's hard to even get to a place anymore where someone hasn't allready been with a motorized vehicle. Something must be done before Montana becomes one of those "Used to be good hunting places"!

I think most complaints against bowhunters is unwarranted and bigotid!! If Bow hunters are made to make consentions Rifle hunters should have to also (I am both and see nether group as perfect. I see dead elk from rifle hunters more than archery

I love to hunt with a bow but I don't want to be bowhunting in competition with rifle hunters. Having to wear orange clothing would ruin bowhunting for me. Use of crossbow should not be allowed in archery season. I do not believe that early season bow hunting affects the regular season kill or hunt quality. I frequently scout the same areas I bow hunt during the (1) week break between the bow & regular season . The elk are still in the area but they dissappear with opening day traffic. I hunt with both bow & rifle - it doubles my pleasure.

Archery is a great sport my wife & I feel sage in the woods hunting as the Indians did. I saw 10 times as many animals when I started bow hunting. Very relaxing sport, allow cross bows, very accurate shots.

The challenge of archery for surpasses that of a high powered gun. Typically archers are very careful not to shoot when in doubt of a clean kill-which may not be true of the gun hunter. Though I have never shot at an elk, I continue to pursue the mythical creature of the mountains.

About legalizing cross bows during the archery season is not a good thing to do. I've seen one shot at a tree 60 yards away, and the arrow went in 6 inches. If crossbows are legalized in archery season, it would cheating on everyone.

I feel there are fewer bad hunters that hunt with a bow so as a result you have a more enjoyable season. But it is many times too warm to hunt hard. As a land owner I have more problems with gun hunters. So I say shorten the gun seasons lengthen Bow Season.

Crossbows are by no means archery. Every archery in montana should have to pass a shoting course. which would aliminate slob hunter.

Unit 260 has a special problem with deer as you know, and may be a problem in some other units. Low harvest by archers and no hunting with guns because of livestock and local residences. Too many deer as I well know after dodgeing many on the road to Missoula from the Bitterroot vally.

My wife and I and friends have hit a few with our cars also! I can tell (as anyone down here can) the problem areas.

If the week after the season (main) was reserved for crossbow only... Many deer could be harvested with the very accurate devices with no harm done to livestock (range) or people (penetration into buildings is not probable or very likely) or sounds of guns to make people uneasy. Crossbows would do nicely by landowner written permission only! This could be applied to other units also & to muzzel loaders in some areas.

Maybe some more areas should be archery only with no rifle hunting season.

I feel that there should be a crossbow season, butt it take place for only 1 week. possibly the week betwee Archery & rifle season and that the crossbow hunter cannot purchase both archery stamp and crossbow season stamp.

Thany you for a chance to be heard.

Bowhunters anywhere, not just in Montana, are more conscience of populations, movements, habits, etc. of big game animals. Yet, the bowhunter is charge extra for this privledge. An 'A' tag & bow permit. I get upset when I see a carload of rifle hunters that drive around all day waiting for some game to wander into their rifle sites.

I believe that bowhunters should be given a break on license fees. If the Fish & Game want revenues, raise rifle fees. I am also in favor of an extended bow season. When I lived in Michigan, bow season was extended from Dec 1 to Jan 1. As an idea for fees, charge 20.00 for an "A" tag (rifle only). If hunters wants only a bow tag set the fee at 10.00. Then if the bow hunter wants to rifle hunt charge \$10-12 for an 'A' tag.

Would like to see a Black Power season

Use archery and primitive weapons more in special areas for damage hunts and post season hunts where human population is a

concern.

How about a muzzle loader season during the bow season. Or in the late season.

Would like to see a muzzle loadeing season- one week perhaps between archery and rifle seasons.

I would like to see a hunting time in MT for black powder X bow before rifle and archery for one or 2 weeks.

I love to hunt, but I hunt for food and the love of it. Not for the horns.

I hope we don't let cross bow in for hunting big game. All it is, is a small gun.

I would favor shortening archery season to provide time for a pistol/black powder season between archery and general rifle season.

I would like to see a shortened archery season with a short black powder season.

I would like to see area 170 open to the use of rifles for deer hunting in 1988-then it might not be so very difficult to get permission to bow hunt in that area. Several farmers told me they would not allow bowhunting unless they were assured their would be a rifle (not shotgun) season also.

I don't think there should be any limits on bows (Longbow US compound for permitt areas.

I think archery and general hunting area should be alternated for there isn't to much presure on game in any particular areas. Example allow bow hunting in areas that have traditionally bad wintering areas and close general season.

I feel it is time to pass a choose your weapons law in Montana. I feel the law should be, A) primitive weapons only (Archery in early fall and archery and muzzleloaders in late season) B) General big game season with hunters having to shoot cow elk only if they apply for and draw a permit.

If we must choose arch or rifle, let cross bow be used in arch.

If you want to dedicate money for game improvement, don't make the arch hunters shoulder the bill, let everyone split cost.

Last year was the first year I really took bow season seriously. I enjoy it a lot but would also like to see a black powder season between archery season and rifle season.

I would like to see muzzle loader seasons implemented in Montana.

Montana is a good place to hunt! I have done so for 20 odd yrs. I've taken a few elk and a half dozen deer in this time period. (Rifle) I started bow hunting liek others, because of increased challegange and a back to the basics hunt. I do believe there is getting to be 'too' much mechanical advantage equip. available. If we are to have a bow season, lets use equip. that justifies such i.e.: recurve or long bow no compounds crossbows, overdraws etc. That gives the bow the rifle advantage.

I would like to see a weight limet of no less than a 50 lb. pull for Bow's used for big game hunting.

To many animals are crippled and lost to bow hunters. The bow, compound or other wise is an inferior weapon. I would like to see archery season shortened considerable and institute a muzzle loader season, or no primitive weapons at all. Bow hunting wastes big game.

I do support banning the use of mechanical bows(?) that would get rid of almost all slob hunters. Bowhunting is not for everyone! There should be a ban on RANGEFINDERS and lighted sight pins. There should be some practical limits on broad-head styles and arrow weight. Overdraws are bad news. The arrow weight with such are too light for large animals like elk. Elk require heavy arrows, deep penetrating broadheads, and over 60 pound bows.

It is my wish that Montana archery season, laws, stay somewhat the same. With exception of legalizing crossbows. I would like to see crossbows used in archery season. and I feel that carrying a pistol should be an essential part of archery hunting (in case of a bear attack.)

In some areas the Deer are so heavily populated that they could have a shotgun-or mussloader season mainly in 260 maby only a week

I'm new to bow hunting-yet I do not hunt with a gun. I tried & like it because of less people (less chance to get shot as in gun season) and the weather.

How about cross bow legalization during 2nd. archery (extended) season?

I think the Dept. does a fine job of management, although I'm not certain of the value (to novice hunters like myself) of the trophy regulations.

Several of my friends shoot blackpowder rifles and wouls like to hunt the archery season. Black poder rifles are a one shot (close shot) like a bow.

The compound bow is about half way between the recurve and the crossbow, perhaps a little closer to the crossbow in range velocity and ease of shooting accurately.

Problem is the compound bow is big business now-would be difficult to outlaw

Has anyone asked for a blackpowder season? This is not the right place to ask, however I would like to know-

There should be no legalization of cross bows!

I would like to see a black powder season. With general season regulations.

please consider the use of crossbow for one armed people as of now you have elimeted people that could hunt with the use of a cross bow

although I wouldn't hunt with a crossbow, from what I've read, they offer no advantages in trajectory. The way it seems to me the hunt would be the same, or more difficult, as with a long bow, recurve, or compound. Just the means of killing would be changed.

I think the archery season and regulations are basically as they should be, and hope to see no major changes. I also sincerely hope that muzzel loaders will not be issued a special season, which would infringe on the archer's season and areas.

I feel before new regulations on Archery Hunting are put in. You should look at the general rifle season regs. such as cutting shorter that hunt. Choosing unit or units one wishes to hunt in & limiting the number of spike & raghorns takes & 4 point of better

If the season was extended 2 weeks (question 8 Part h) I would like to see a primitive firearms (black Powder) season along with archery. Would also not mind seeing more branch antler areas.

I hope the small but vocal minority of non compond (recurve & long bow users) will not be seriously considered with their requests to eliminate the dual season arrangement currently in effect or obtain a limit on the type of bow with the exception of the crossbow. I associated the crossbow in it's design & method of firing with a rifle. I would not object to the use of this weapon during the rifle season.

I would further suggest thath all hunters qualify with the weapon they intend to hunt with wether it is a rifle or a bow.

I would also like to see Montana start a 5 or 6 day Muzzle Loader season for Elk in mid September. Branch Antlered Bulls only.

13. ROAD CLOSURES/MOTORIZED VEHICLES, AIRCRAFT.

I think too many gates are closed during archery season. I do not believe there is enough pressure put on wild game to warrant the closure of these gates. I feel all road gates should be left open during archery season. We are handicapped enough.

In areas where I and my family have hunted for years there has been over abuse by motorized vehicles (including aircraft). These areas had once been a place where elk could rest and escape pressure, but now these elk are constantly pestered by these so called hunter which find easy access to the sanctuary. Elk need an area to escape pressure and these "lazy beings" in 4x4's shouldn't be allowed to drive to them. This way "true hunters" could work to get elk in the areas. Thus, elk would frequent those area without the constant pounding of motorized vehicles. Thanks for the opportunity of letting hunters voice their opinions.

In the area I hunt I would like to see more road closures to take some pressure off the elk. Also every year I see more area and habitat being lost to logging. I guess if it was done properly and closed afterward and not all clearcut I wouldn't be so unhappy.

I'm a high school student and the only time I can hunt is usually one day a weekend, and its hard for me to find elk because I don't have time to hunt elk away from the roads, which is where the majority of elk have been pushed by "road hunters". So I would like too see road travel limited, so guys like me who can't get out alot have a better chance of bagging an elk.

Area 318 has undergone radical changes to access over the past 5 years including those imposed by F. Kleise, and reactionary road restrictions to the South Fork of Barin by the Fish and Game/Forest Service. Local mine development in the Remir area has also affected access to prime area in that area and adject along the Solor Mine road.

This is a great idea! If we don't start paying attention to the remaining large blocks of non-roaded areas left for the unmolested breeding of elk we will lose the best elk hunting in the world.

Better access to animals on private land bordering F.S. is desপরস্য a need in area 333.

I think roads should be closed during hunting season. Many I have seen are left open and there are 4x4 and ATV all over the place. I feel if you want to hunt you should walk or ride horse to get to were you want to go.

All terrain vehicles go on trails to the lakes and turn up rocks which when we go up on horse back hurt the horses feet.

One of the major problems on the rise during both archery and general hunting seasons is the use of ATV's. The Dept. of FW&P should begin implementing and enforcing stricter rules for these vehicles. My first choice would be to completely eliminate them.

I strongly oppose any restrictions on the operation or use of ATV's.

Complaints of all terrain vehicel. To return game in winter game range area 261 was not responded to.

Pre season harrassment of game in 250. Bear cone area drastically effected the hunting in that district. The walk in distance on winter range in 261 should be shortened some, not eleminated.

Stop licensed outfitters from allowing cliants to shoot from vehecils or any one else.

This past season offered many hours of fun for me. I got a doe whitetail on my "B" tag. I also had a chance at a cow elk but missed. I did encounter more 3-wheel traffic in my hunting area - places where there use is not legal. I would like to see more restrictions in that area.

Perhaps if greater vehicular restrictions were established, better hunting would result for everyone - although by the "management actions" you indicate a strong bias against archers and for rifle hunters. Why not "manage" both equally?

Archery season times and lengths are satisfactory to me.

The only problems encountered are use of motorcycles and horses in the woods to harass game, especially the use of horses in walk-in only areas. The use of military helicopters in hunting areas should be stopped.

I think the biggest problem in Montana bow-hunting is increased abuse by ATV hunters, especially on BLM lands and "closed" Forest Service roads. A lot of casual bowhunters also road-hunt from pickups, but the serious hunter can avoid them with a little hiking. You can't get away from ATV abusers in many areas. They ride them everywhere, even in illegal areas.

I feel all terrain vehicles or four wheelers and three wheelers should be outlawed or limited to roadways only. They are tearing the hell out of the mountains and chasing elk out of their feeding areas. Every where you go there are ruts and tracks off

roads!

Generally the good archery hunters does not take bad shots that will only wound an animal. You may go all season without drawing an arrow, yet still seeing lots of animals. I don't believe that the elk or deer are spooked or driven as much as they are during rifle season. Education of the new hunters is important. I believe that the decrease in the bull population is do to poor management during the rifle season. To many cow tag holders shoot bulls whenever that opportunity arises. Their as also many roads closed and yet 4 wheelers gain access over trails and open ridges. I think that by allowing hunters to use those closed roads to retrieve shot animals during non hunting hours would make it more inviting to walk into a closed road area.

I'm a disabled Vietnam Veteran so; I'm opposed to any "new" wilderness areas as it severally restricts access (as to vehicles, gas operated utensils, etc.). I feel wilderness areas are now nothing more than private economic domain for outfitters and wealthy clients. If your not comfortably wealthy - hunting and access to designated wilderness areas is a pipe dream. It's our tax monies to create these areas, so put the issue to a statewide vote, not just legislation. Science has shown us some development does create better wildlife habitat!

I feel the archery season for elk in Montana is good. The only complaint I have is the access given to ATV's and 4x4's. I believe they spook the animals and cause undue stress upon them. They also pollute the environment.

I understand the need for gate closers and I agree with most of them. But the only people who are able to get back far enough for reasonable success are those that have money for horses and equipment or that have no health problems (which rules out most people over 30 years old). Is that fair?

Elk hunting in Lincoln County has been ruined by the number of unclosed roads. Easy access is still the number 1 problem for elk. Elk must have cover and seclusion to survive and grow to huntable size.

I think archery hunters have more access to hunting districts with road closers. All though it is warmer time for hunting and elk and deer would spoil faster should have retrivel rights in some districts.

On question 8a. I wouldn't mind making a choice if deer rut season was bow only. The rifle season should either be started earlier as in Idaho, or closed before deer rut comes on. Useof horse and all terrain vehicles should be restricted. While I'm not opposed to non-resident hunters, I oppose the fact that they, by paying outfitters and guides with the use of horses, are

penetrating during both rifle and bow season, secure elk habitat. Restrict the use of horses and all terrain vehicles and your spike branch antler elk problem will remedy itself. The large bull elk and buck mule deer populations are being decimated by a lack of animal secure areas. If people have to walk more to hunt, less people would hunt, populations may rise. The problem will get worse before it gets better. The reason North Idaho's panhandle country offers a greater percentage of shootable bulls is because horses and even ATV's are ineffective. Eastern Montana from the divide is more accessible with horses and ATV's. Outfitters who stand to make money are going to penetrate anywhere they can to get their clients large animals.

I think all hunting season would be better if the rifle season were shortened at least three weeks. I also think the general and archery season for all animals would be better if several of the small branchy roads were closed off.

Bowhunting for me is almost a passion - as you are one on one with the animals. As more areas are restricted access I have become more discouraged because irresponsible hunters are ruining my chance's at reaching areas where trophy animals live out their years. I have learned to live with these restrictions against 4x4's which, for the most part, stayed on roads in existence no matter how open the country or how remote. Personally I turn in any motorized vehicals (4x4's) that are tearing up land by traveling off the road, which aren't many. But when roads are open too smaller vehicals as snowmobiles and ATV's but closed to big 4x4's I have to scratch my head and wonder why? These smaller vehicals have always been the biggest problem and now the barn door is wide open. As I travel the woods or plains the tracks are clear - motorcycle's travel game trails, who can catch them on foot, ATV's (the newest threat) go where ever they can, over trail, field, anything. Pack up 600 lbs can go. Snowmobiles, who catches them. They chase down game in snow too deep for anything to escape. I know I'm walkin around seeing their tracks.

This last bow season in area 284, after searching for eight days during dryest season ever, I finally found where the elk were hold up, sign was excellent. Now I only had to get into them. After humping mountains for 8 days, you relax on a mountain side watch the sun setting, elk so close you could almost smell them, then shattering the serinity - ring, ding, ding, ding - what the hell, there's no roads up here, yet someone is driving around on the mountain. I get a sick feeling, then I was angry. I tried to find him, he was close but I never could see him, but I find his tracks ATV! His using the meadows for easy crossing I lost hearing him, his gone. As I get back to my 4x4 parked on the end of an established road I faintly hear the sound of his machine, on my way back to camp, just beyond a gate that will soon be closed to me and my 4x4. ATV tracks clearly leave the road and

disappear into the trees via another meadow. This is only one of many stories I could tell. Point is a big 4x4 can't begin to do this and ever since I was a young boy, hunters have told their stories of using small motorized vehicles to chase and kill game of all sizes. I'm not whining only making a point for improvement.

I had problems with ATV running off road trails and scarring game off. I saw many deer but were unable to get close to them.

I firmly believe the Fish and Game has initiated enough road and trail closures within the state and that no more are warranted.

This is concerning the small 4x4 wheelers (all terrain vehicles). I would like to see them restricted to only retrieving game. They seem to be everywhere.

I would like to see more vehicle restrictions (all terrain and motor bikes) throughout southwestern Montana and better enforcement of these restrictions. I saw motor vehicles three times in area 310 where they shouldn't have been. This encroachment, I feel, decreases the number of trophy bulls in the area.

I have lost many opportunities to bugling elk because of grouse hunters on trail bikes running off trails. They can ride most anywhere because of good weather. Shotguns are as loud as rifles and they do make the elk nervous. Two years ago in our area we have hunted for 15 years there were timber counters with trail bikes (10 in all) and they were there for all of bow season. We have been packing in approx. 10 miles with horses because the C.C. Divide trail is closed to bikes but that ruined that because the Forest Service let the timber counters ride all trails so everyone has been ever sense. In the Little Belt Mountains bikers who say they are grouse hunters have no respect for the bow hunter. I have had them ride there bike up to me when I was bugling elk and being told to get out of there grouse area. Please excuse me for getting a little hot under the collar.

I talking for all bowhunters. the Montana Department Fish, Wildlife and Parks should not be able to close areas for the Big game or any other game.

Irrespective of what the biologists say, the current program of road closures is a total detriment to the average hunter. The necessity of "packing in" to prime elk country is resulting in elk hunting becoming only for those who can afford horses or guides and who can afford to take time off from work.

Overall archery season is good. Although, there are too many roads that cut through prime areas. Too much 4x4 pressure.

I enjoy archery very much and want little changes. I would like to see Montana stop catering to backpackers and guides because the average hunter can't afford them and still need to have access to good hunting areas without road closures prohibiting them. Vehicles destroy no more land than horses and I can prove that to you.

I think that if all-terrain vehicles would be restricted to the roads, or where other vehicles can't go, then the elk and deer hunting in my favorite area would be better.

If a road is marked closed I will hunt behind the gate. This year twice I was working 2 different large bulls when a 4x4 Forest Service truck drove down the road that was closed. This is wrong!!

I would like to see more road closures during both archery and the general season. I think this would reduce hunter density and provide more secure habitat.

I don't agree with your closing all the roads during rifle season or at least allowing people to drive in and retrieve their game. I think your making it too hard for older or retired people to enjoy the sport. Also, I don't think ranchers and farmers should be able to close off a road through their property if its a road that goes into BLM or Forest Service property by closing their road it's giving them their own private hunting ground on ground that belongs to all Montanans.

I feel that 4x4 access should be controlled better to insure more access to both public and private land. I feel that some of the proposed changes would hinder financial aid to hunters and management.

The largest percentage of hunters are 4x4 or ATV hunters. These people are not staying on roads, there they should be policed in a more efficient manner. This is my biggest pieve against the so called sportsman.

I would like to see some work done with landowners on closing some roads. Also woodgetters and some hunters are also open and constructing roads and trails to give themselves vehicle access to some areas.

The number of elk may be on the rise but the number of road closers to get to prime hunting areas is rising faster. The bulls seem to me to be at a low. I think the number of out of state general licenses should be cut in half.

Hope this survey shows that archer success is not as great as a lot of people think. More archery only areas and more road closures (walkin only) would help in increases wildlife

populations.

Some areas become congested, I feel that it would improve the quality of bow hunting if we could decrease the pressure in the congested areas. I would like to see the roads that are closed on Oct. 15 closed before the archery season begins. In some areas we should close even more roads. We also need to find a way to more effectively enforce road closures.

I am concerned about the lack of access I am finding for use of my motorized bike. I use this bike primarily to pack in camp, and pack out animals. Why do horse owners have this privilege and not me? I do not agree with chasing and or harassing on these bikes, only to use them as a tool for packing.

I hunt with a "real" bow since I was 7 years old. There is no pressure on game by a true archery hunter looking for a trophy. The biggest problem I've witnessed in almost 20 years of hunting big game is road building and the lack of road closures. The pressures from question #11 all pertain to the experiences I've had over the years. Airplanes are the #2 tool these days not to be under-rated. We must close off year-round every new road and every critical road winter-range (ie. snowmobile), this is where the most stress game experience. Airplanes are so unsportsman its ridiculous!

I'm very glad to have this opportunity to make a statement. I think the first 2 weeks of season a lot of archers are about, especially if the weather is nice; I was mostly disappointed at finding cattle and new roads and logging operations in areas that were once remote, more than 1 mile from main roads. I do not like road closure policy. I think more roads should be gated, especially during the general season. Voluntary road closures are for honest people and unfortunately not everyone obeys road closures.

I feel that the rules, limits and season are okay, but we are destroying the habitat with all the damn roads being built and not closed after the timber is harvested. Talking to the Forest Service about closing roads is akin to pounding your head on a brick wall. All of the season juggling, sex preference, and other means of increasing herd size will never work if there is continued major access to their habitat!! We need to make the Forest Service engineers quit worrying about justifying their jobs and to start looking beyond the end of their collective noses. CLOSE MORE ROADS.

There are two things that I think would greatly improve all hunting in Montana. 1) More and better winter range. 2) Gate more Forest Service roads during hunting season and thru the winter to allow the game to expend less energy during winter months.

I have noticed that the F.S. seems to be gating roads lower on the road. I am for this. Also, I would like to see more done to discourage ATV and 4WD use and violation. Also, I would like to see more done in the way of controlling Indian hunting in the off-season which I see (along with poaching) as the single most detrimental practice currently done in respect to all game species put more so in regards to elk and moose. I would also like to see something done in response to the harassment of game, already stressed by winter and pregnancy, by snowmobilers. I enjoy "snowcats" myself but something may need to be done. In the future, a proficiency exam for all hunters may need to be undertaken. We have a good FWP Department which I support entirely. (No extra charge).

I would like to see our district made walk in only for a couple years to increase out elk herd and eliminate poaching from tribal members. Also people are strictly road hunting and not following up on shots. I found 5 kills left in woods. Three were within 200 yards of road.

The biggest threat to big bulls in areas I hunt has been poaching from roads which should be closed. Poachers bugle up elk and shoot with a rifle. Closure of roads normally closed Oct. 15 should be extended to year around or at min. closed by Sept. 1.

I would like to say that logging practice and particular road building (permanent roads) by the Forest Service has been exceptional in area #120 in recent years. As close to Kalispell and its population center as Blacktail Mtn. in and with roads the access is far too high. Also with Beetle Kill as an excuse so more selective clear cutting, this too is a problem. More roads, trucking, and hauling helps distribute the insect for miles via road then they could spread on their own. Also I would like to point out as a tax payer that, I do not feel that I should be locked out of my own roads for "walk-in" purposes. Once the road is built I feel I should have access at all times as I do in my own home. I feel that private corporations do a much better job of forest management and wildlife management as well as putting old roads back inot production of forests and game.

I feel south western Montana needs more strict management on the roads, especially in the Beaverhead National Forest. This will have a large effect on mule deer and elk herds.

Increasing numbers of 4 wheelers or all terrain vehicles in areas during hunting season which I don't care for.

I think ATV's are a big problem. I don't think spike bull elk should be legal for bows or rifles. I don't like to idea of choosing bow or rifle. It would be nice to have more game wardens to cover the country better. They do an excellent job

and we can be proud of them. I don't feel that the Indians still need to hunt year round with no limits on or OFF THE RESERVATIONS.

Perhaps the most effective means of reducing hunting pressure, particularly an elk, would be a significant increase in road closures and restrictions on motorized vehicles, rather than a shortening of archery seasons. Any shortening of seasons should be done on a district - by - district basis. The same approach should be applied for restrictions to branch antlered bulls, except I feel all designated wilderness areas should be restricted to branch antlered bulls only. These areas are specially managed already in other regards (eg. vehicle restrictions) and probably it would be more politically acceptable to the general public.

Regarding District 240, I feel last year's early rifle season for mule deer was inappropriate and presented conflicts and increased pressure on archery hunting, particularly for elk. This early mule deer hunt should be discontinued.

Would like to see no license sold after opening day of season. Both guns and bows should be cased to stop road hunting. The Forest Service needs to step up law enforcement on gate violations by 4x4 and all terrain vehicles. Also Forest Service needs to keep existing gates closed.

State Fish and Game needs to be more aggressive in management of elk herds. Bull to cow ratio in area 100's is too low! We need more law enforcement personnel both at the state and federal level to stop all types of violations: example: poaching, road hunting, gate violations, aircraft flying too low, etc.

I feel ATV's should be kept on trails except for getting game out. I get mad when I look for elk in areas where they stay and see people driving around any time and any place on ATV's and motorcycles.

Recommend limiting all terrain vehicles and motorcycles to establish roads during hunting season. This year for the first time in 8 years I saw no ELK during 5 days of hunting in area 429 where as in the past I have seen many. A recently completed Forest Service trail makes this area easy access to all terrain vehicles and motorcycles.

Bow hunting in Montana should stay as it is. I see two threats to my continued enjoyment: 1) regulation changes brought on by pressure from outfitters i.e., unlimited out of state licenses and restrictive archery regulations; 2) increased use of ATV's particularly the "4 wheelers", these machines go anywhere and the people who ride them do not stay on the trails but instead use them to gain access to areas that are legally only open to foot

and horseback travel!

I do not like the tone and implications of this questionnaire. Bow hunting in Montana is an enjoyable quality experience. Habitat acquisition, not shooting spikes and control of the ATV's will ensure that this continues and improves. It is far better to restrict 4x4 pickups to road use and ban ATV's than the other way around. Technology being what it is soon there will be a vehicle that will go anywhere silently and without disturbing the environment, the "perfect" hunting vehicle. Failure to severely restrict the ATV's now will hasten the developemnt of the above "perfect" vehicle and the ultimate demise of hunting as we enjoy it now.

I think that all terrain vehicles should be outlawed. I find them more and more in places that is closed, chasing game and tearing up the mountain sides. Other than that I love getting out and seeing big game even if I don't get any thing. I think Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks are doing a great job.

All terrain vehicles - snowmobiles and motorcycles should be kept out of the hunting areas during the hunting season, especially the general season. These people break every rule in the book and you do not have enough people to enforce the laws. This problem is as serious as poachers. I can't believe you allow this practice. I feel it's your biggest fault - otherwise you are doing a very good job!

P.S. I also feel you should give anyone who books an hunt with a well established outfitter their general license and eliminate some of these fly-by night outfitters in the business. They would have to book at least a 7 day full guided hunt - if they cancel, so goes there license!

The amount of people using 4x4 pickups and other types of ATV's in area 622 this year caused the elk to move to other areas. 3 and 4 wheel ATV's should be limited to retrieving game only. Permits could be drawn earlier to allow for more planning. I don't feel that raising the price is an alternative in improving the quality of our bow hunting. We have a number of better choices.

A lot of good roads are closed now during regular gun season. I love to bow hunt - no luck yet but it's fun. I scout for regular season too.

The main thing that affects archery hunting in my area is too many roads. I think we need to close as many roads as possible for archery season.

I have a 4 wheel ATV and enjoy getting out especially at this time of year. Any further restrictions on ATV or area closure to

ATV's would probably cause me to give up hunting altogether as my health and endurance are not such that I would be able to continue to get out and hunt.

Open more roads and trails to motorbikes.

Muzzle loaders and crossbows would still be short range but be more accurate - less wounded game.

Don't manage bow season out of existence.

There is lots of game. I see no reason to limit the number of hunters, or shorten season.

Hunters using all terrain vehicles in 261 to bring game out and 4x4's in same area was never answered to. Pre-season harassment in 250 really hurt the hunting in Bare Cone area. Would like to see winter range gate moved up to just west of apple orchard, or top of hill. Stop licensed outfitters from letting their customers hunt from their vehicles.

I would like to see the gated roads in the area I hunt closed during archery season. This area is the east side of Hungry Horse Dam. Most of the firewood is already taken and berry season is over by then so most of the people using the roads that time of year are bow hunters. I think by doing this it would increase the quality of elk hunting and bugling for bowhunters and the elk wouldn't be disturbed by traffic thus making rifle season better also by not having the elk already run around so much.

Really enjoy bow hunting in Montana. It is a quality time to be outdoors. Would like to see more road closures and restrictions on RV usage. I support the mandatory bowhunter education program.

I was greatly disturbed last year by the ATV's in the mountains. They scared off the game, started new trails up every hill or ridge they possibly could and ruined existing horse trails. I think every hunting district should have one or more areas banning all motorized vehicle travel.

Hunting in 432 should be off limits to ATV and 4 wheel drive trucks. I was raised in Neihart and now live in Laurel and I have ATV's. But we use ours in a more conservative manner. I witness areas in the Hover Creek drainage torn all to hell, by people who abuse there public lands.

I think roads should be closed to all hunting during bow and rifle hunting. There should be a retrivel on roads that are closed if you get a pass from game wardens or farmers or ranchers if on private land.

The most important thing that I would like to see done is to stop the use of aircraft to hunt with! And to ensure the use of main traveled roads on public and private lands!

In hunting districts 411 and 412, there should be more or better access to BLM and Forest Service lands. Landowners have most of the roads which have been there for the last 30-40 years are now blocked or locked shut. Then the private land owners lease out there land to guides for hunting which they have the only access to BLM or Forest Service land.

The archery season around my area is the best time it could be. So I would like to see archery season stay the way it was in 1987.

I think areas like 623 with limited vehicle travel permitted will keep in check the number of archers. (Only the serious ones will survive.) I also think rather than increasing the archery fee! (equalize). Change the rifle hunters \$6 for a rifle permit (stamp)!!! Lets get down to just serious rifle hunters too!!!

I feel the use of ATV's for hunting is causing alot of problems. Not only does it disturb the elk herds, but it is causing the closure of alot of private ground. I also feel there are some very serious problems with landowner-sportsmen and fish and game realtions in terms of them not cooperating with the landowner.

I don't think archery season should be changed. In the past 15 years I have seen game management screw up prime hunting locations because of the precious grizzly bear! Gating old roads that have been open for 20 years is unfair to the handicapped and senior hunters!

Many of the questions asked have no bearing on hunting or the quality of hunting. Most of the information that hunters give to the state leads to those prime spots being gated! Now you can't even get close.

I think the Forest Service has locked up to many "old" access roads. Roads are locked up in a warm time of year which if you do shoot an animal, it could spoil before it is retrieved.

I think some roads should be closed during archery as well as rifle season.

Concerning question #11 I feel the fish & game should not let people hunt coyotes out of an aircraft, reason being it's inhumane, they don't have a chance to get away or anything. I hunt coyotes, & trap, and the 1986-87 season has been bad. The simple trapper has nothing any more, the airplane hunters get a lot of furs from the air - It's not fair. It's illegal by

snowmobile, why not aircraft.

Need more Walk in areas restriction of all terraine vehicles more closure on spikes in certain districts to improve branch antlered bull populations.

I would like to see Elk pop. increase but we need the forest service to cooperate with road closures when elk are transplanted - I also feel that wood cutters of all types should do there cutting before hunting seasons start - they have all spring & summer to get wood for the winter - why should poor planning on their part constitute sacrifice on our part.

All areas Ive been in in so west Mont are to accussable, And the areas that are close to moterveicles are not maintained.

I would like to see more access that are closed to Motorized vehicles If you would open these areas to limited traffic it would help when retrieving game.

1987 was a poor year because of heat late in season.

1986 would have changed answers concerning Elk hunts. Restrict All-Terrain to roads when hunting. This is still the best state a bowhunter could live in.

In my home area in the past 2 years we've been experiencing extreme problems with motor bikes all summer prior to hunting season; and then with all-terrain vehicles during hunting season. They are being driven on every ridge back, where game used to be safe. There is virtually nowhere left in area (392) that is fit for bow hunting anymore. Hunting, a recreation for many, is being sacrificed for the "fun" of a few, namely your dirt bikers and all-terrain owners, and our game animals are suffering for it.

Gates do not work! Last year the forest Service put gates on some roads, in the area's were I hunt I thought great! but it didn't take long for the Slob's to figure away to go around or throu them. It would have been great to catch one of these Slob's and finethe hell out of them!

There are certian popular areas which get too much pressure & possible disturb the elk - these areas could be considered for limited permits. All terrain vehicles can be a problem, however for handicapped, or elderly people they can help them get to an area to hunt.

Need better management of road closures. All archers should have to pass a test on accuracy and discipline with the bow. This would lower numbers of archers and the number of wounded animals each year. Clamp down on road closure violations, stiffer fines, etc.

My biggest concerns are:

- 1) Required bow hunters education course.
- 2) Restrict ATV use.
- 3) Better mgmt concerning outfitter distribution and prosecution of unlicensed outfitters.
- 4) Increased road closures.
- 5) Putting limits solely on bow hunters will mostly likely only increase hunter pressure during rifle season.
- 6) Changing the "scouting aircraft" to a longer time period between flying & hunting. 24 hrs is sothing. Especially for species not in transit between ranges.
- 7) Increased hunter access through private ground which currently "locks up" Federal or non-leased state ground.
- 8) Blockage of major land purchases by "corp." solely for the purpose of fee hunting or membership hunting.

The habitual building of roads to what previously were good hunting areas by the Forest Service has got to stop. The timber industry insists that this practice is good for the economy, I say bull crap!! Utilize the existing roads and stop being so damned greedy on public property. Thank you.

Archry hunting in MT is great. The only concern I have is when I see archery hunters riding ATV's right through prime elk country when they could just about see an elk right where they ride through.

The Fish & Game is doing a good job. But in the areas I hunt there are alot of roads which need to be closed (They go no where) All elk really need is room to roam and be free to escape human pressure. Room to calve - winter grounds Lair's for big bulls etc. Thanks for good hunting.

Airplanes should not be allowed to fly low over elk or be used to find them with it.

This is my biggest gripe more and more planes are used to find them then they land and know where to find them an hour later.

You are closing to many roads in MT. Some roads I've used for 15 years or more were closed for road erosion, & they were as good now or better than they were 15 years ago. Give a special season to the handycapet hunters.

Get rid if ATV's off roading during the hunting season. Your management choices have not worked in other states, so they won't here. Access to private lands by having to pay should be stopped. The animals our public owned.

Bow hunting provides a good opportunity to see alot of game with minimal impact on the environment if road closures are enforced & preferable increased! I hope this is not too late. It was lost

for a good period of time. Thanks!!!

I think a mandatory archery education program is necessary. Also the use of aircraft & ATV's in area 360 is getting ridiculous! The quality and the beauty of archery hunting are declining due to the use of motorized vehicles being allowed access into certain areas.

Those logged roads with gates should be unlocked - in Western areas - bow season should be lengthened well into Dec - I don't sit in a stand - its been to dry for good stalking. I mainly bird hunt & bow hunt to scout Big Rack mule deer - My boys & I have turned down does & small bucks looking for Big Racks - were not real hard core bowhunters - but I still love the sport & the time it gives me in the field.

Stop closing roads to make hunting reserves for outfitters.

I have a box but didn't get a chance to go this year because of work. I answered some of the questions though. I'm particularly concerned with the use of ATV - I think they have a negative impact on both wildlife pressure and consideration of other hunters. A lot of people tear around the woods making noise on them instead of just using them for packing out game.

During season archery or general I don't mind walking in to areas blocked by road closures but would like to be able to use vehicle to retrieve downed animal.

Question #14 - I believe that ATVs could be used for retrieve hame after shot in eather season - Go in unarmed only. Not even a hand gun. I'm 50 years old and can't get game out unless I rent horses & mules.

This yr. I didn't hunt as much due to time. I have and will hunt more dists. and day's. In passed I have been disappointed in the all-terrain vehicles that go into walk-in area's. I would like to see more walkin area's for Archery only! I would like to see more area's opened for B-Deer tag's during archery only. You need game check station open more in Bonner/Blackfoot area. I believe you should look into having more surprise check's in the Blackfoot valley during reg. and archery season. I hear of many violation's in the Potomic and Twinck area's. In past 15 yrs I have only been "checked" twice other than game check station. I think added "oversee" would keep a lot of people honest.

Steps should be taken to keep the non-serious bow hunter home. Gates should be closed before bow season begins. I like the season just the way it is.

I was surprised when I got this in the mail - there are too many people that don't take Bow hunting seriously - don't practice - and don't care if they recover an animal that is wounded. We have to do something about this, and the only way I can see to do this is with an either or season.

I also feel that their is too much poaching going on and with the wide area we have around here "2 game wardens" are not enough. I'm also outraged at the number of Road Closures in 318 - This whole area is becoming "Packers Paradise" and it's our land - This is my opinion - get the cattle off the USFS & BLM land or let us hunt any private land we want without having to get permission - No one asked me if they could run cattle on Forest Service or BLM land!! This may seem like a hard nose approach but I want my 2 month old son to enjoy the good life off hunting in this state that I had growing up. If you have any questions about certain areas I'm talking about - Please feel free to call me. Thank you Sincerely William J. Gibson Star Route, Elk Park, Butte, MT 59701 494-4516.

I feel that Montana has far to many out of State permits for archery and general seasons. People who live in Montana should have priority over out of states. People from out of state should be drastically reduced. This is our state and our game. It's a privilage to come to our state to hunt. I feel people not from this state should have to pay fees that are greatly increased to hunt in Montana.

To many all terrain vehicles. Please stay with branched antlered bulls only in 311-360-310-301.

As I stated earlier that A.T.V. have become a problem. They should be only allowed to retrieve game - no weapon allowed.

ATV's should be kept out of archery districts. There has been a few times when these vehicles have spooked bull elk I was stalking.

I strongly oppose requiring hunters to elect between bow hunting & rifle hunting. There seem to be more bow hunters all the time, but it has not reach a point where it has become a real problem. I would like to see a half to the use of motorized vehicles, especially motorcycles & four wheelers (ATV's), both in rifle & bow season. If anything affects the distribution of elk in an area it appears to be the noise of these vehicles. They also significantly diminish the enjoyment of the hunt.

The issue of access is very important to me. I don't like to see closed roads just to make it hard for people to get to the elk that are typically further back into the wilderness at the time archery season is open. I usually only hunt weekends during archery and can't take the time to get to the backcountry by walking. I usually take a week to hunt with a gun however, to

increase chances of a kill if I don't get anything during archery.

I constantly see cattle over grazing on gov. land. ATV's are getting worse, going out of trails, pushing elk around. People actually drive through parks during season where I've seen the best elk sign all summer. I'd like to see heavier vehicle restriction.

I would like to see fewer road Closures. This would spread out hunting pressure. I also think ATV's & motorcycles should be allowed on these closed roads for hauling out elk. They are big animals and tough for a person to back-pack.

The only problem with vehicles is the forest service - Fish & Game closures in all area's for all vehicals. The wrong roads are being closed for the wrong reasons and making walking access highly difficult. For all especialy elder hunters. This applys for all seasons.

I feel more road closers are necessary for future archery and rifle seasons. I also feel that a branch antlered rifle season is in need for the 100-101-103, 121-122-127 regions. I also now for fact that all terrain vehicles are being misused for hunting.

I hope I have the time this year to hunt.

Driving 4 X 4 or all terrain vehicles seem to cause a lot of problems and should be stopped in most areas to prevent damage to the grass & soil, especial on the east slope.

My only disappointment during archery was some ATV'ers who took their vehicles down a closed trail because they were to lazy to walk.

Overall I enjoy archery hunting more than any other sport.

One simple way to increased herds is the closure of roads. Not necessarily the larger roads but most spur ex-logging roads. I think the season should be closed on all cows & spike bulls for about 3 years.

Too many RTV's all over prime animal habitat. Also chasing the animal.

I think that the rifle season should be shortend and the archery season lengthed at least a week diff. and make all districts walk in arear only. I get fead up with pick up & ATVs, & motor cycles driveing around me all day.

I strongly urge the MOntana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks should limit access for ATV's and 4X4's in prime elk habitat. I feel this easy access is greatly affecting the number of trophy elk available. Also, I feel people should hunt in only 1 hunting

district in order to decrease hunting pressure. Elk calls such as bugles it upsetting elk's natural breeding habits, and I feel they should be banned.

The locking up of old established roads has led to tremendous pressure in the areas where roads are still open. I can see locking up new logging roads that add new pressure on the elk herds but roads that have been around for years don't hurt anything. Walk in areas with no retrieval by vehical make it almost a private domain for guides and outfitters with the equipment to get back in and retrieve animals.

Aircraft used to spot elk in area 362 needs to be curtailed - it has ruined more than 3 hunts for me over the last 5 years.

Since the very first bow season in Mont. There has never been a pre fire arms season. The Fish & Game Dept. has always opened the upland bird season on the same day as archery season. With shot gun and rifle shooters riding motor cycles all over the mountains making very much noise certainly disturbing game animals and is a detriment to bow hunters trying to stalk game animals.

Bow hunters should have at least 2 weeks ahead of firearms season. Bow hunting has increased greatly in Mont and definitely has a big impact on the economy in the state.

I feel that game gets harassed by motor vehicles, 4X4, 4 wheelers, helicopters. They are too spooky. Then how many animals are shot with rifles 22 cal. Archers should have to prove their ability rather than just go buy a bow and expect to use it correctly and accurately.

I would really like to see the big game population (all species) increase in Montana - even if my opportunities to harvest them were lessend. I also strongly oppose all terrain vehicles - Montana has plenty of national forest roads. and a natural balance to maintain.

Im concerned about all the new roads you have to watch up Deep Creek (Harpers Bridge). The gates up there are not good enough to keep out four sheelers. Somebody should build a soild iron gate. Then no one can get in. Unless they have a key. It should be done to every gate that is in a hunting area. It will cost money. But then their will be no trucks where they don't belong. Every one should have to walk. I always have. I don't see why someone can drive in. They're just lazy. They need to be stopped.

I think ATV's & ATC's should be illegalized for hunting, I saw more tracks where these vehicles have torn up the ground and have abused the land. Also I have seen big buck deer chased & killed by ATV's. Disgusting!!!

I think that at the beginning of archery season that all roads which are closed during the general season should be closed. Too many people road hunt during the archery season.

I started bow hunting just to hunt elk. I do not enjoy the heavy pressure during the gen season. I hunted the CM Russell one week end & would not go back unless I had a permit for a limited area. As hunting pressure increases permits for some areas may be necessary. I think this is true of the c? gun season now. Also I see All-Terrain vehicles all over They need the same restrictions as trucks. Thank You

I believe some of the logging roads should be closed to protect some areas.
Logging should not be done in prime Elk Habitat.

I believe that more roads need to be closed to all vehicles so that the hunter has to walk in to the area. I believe this will help the problem of not having enough bigger bulls, the spike bulls are to accesible to road hunting because they stay with the cows at lower elevations. I am dismayed with the big business attitude that is coming from private land owners. Most Mont. hunters are strictly meat hunters.

I think that the Fish & Game Commission should strictly enforce the use of ATV's on closed roads, Personally all I saw this year was 3 muley bucks, but I couldn't get a clear shot at any of them.

I'd like to see more restrictions & enforcement on using ATV cycles, etc for hunting use. Retrieval of meat is ok but all this driving through hunting areas is getting old.

I turn in people that go behind gates, but nothing happens.
In district 292 there been very poor Elk management. All roads are open and even If there are locked gates there very evident ways around them. Kelly humps are the most effective, But are not being applied. Gates that are suppose to be locked. Are damaged and not repaired.

In other words people can go anywhere and be at least 1/4 to 1/2 a mile from an Accessable road Anywhere in 292 from Bear Creek up to the top of E. Ashby to canas or Smith Creek. And the Elk populations in 292 are going to decrease. In Arkansas Creek in 1985 I seen 9 bulls in one bench. In 86 a lot less in 87 the same herd 2 bulls 1, 6 point and 1, spike. This is probably due to damaged Arkansas gates and a lot of Kelly humps taken out of the Bottom of East and west Ashby, because of those Kelly humps removal in 86 people killed about 7 bulls in the flats of Potomac. Because the Elk were trapped in the fields. (But I suppose thats the forest services concern.) No insult intended. If you want me to show you access to these roads that are suppose

to be closed or should be for good Elk protection just contact me.) Steven Dean Mace, 916 Cooley St., Missoula, MT 59801, phone 728-3039.

You should do away with a charge for Archery hunting period. A Elk tag is an Elk tag is an Elk tag. You should Eliminate hunters who can't pass on accuracy test in shooting the other problem is too many roads open on the Forest Service lands with a lack of access to public land in other cases. Also

To much area being closed off to vehicles.

I would like to see more access to the National forest & public lands. I am tired of going up a public road that crosses private property & finding the gates locked & one cannot get to the forest sevice to hunt. I would like to see tougher fines & penalties for the law breaker & poachers.

I think the roads should be opened so you can drive back to where you want to go and walk I would make it a lote funner.

I wish there was a way I could hunt using a atv to retrieve the meat and just hunt with for I am a handicaped hunter theres a lot of places I just can't get to on foot because I have an artificial leg this would be more enjoyable and I don't think would cause a problem with the state land and grass if the people didn't abuse the privilage. if there is any help a handicaped hunter can use that I don't know about, I would sure appreciate a reply from fish and game regarding these laws. Thank you.

The area where I hunt elk (263) is perhaps a little too crowded with hunters. I would like to see a late archery hunt in 623. I would like also to see a late buck deer hunt where I hunt deer (704). This would allow a chance to hunt the rut with a bow without interference from geen hunters.

I am a landowner in area 704 and have a lot of trouble with gun hunters hunting without permission. I would like to see the gun season shortened and the archery season lengthened. I would also like to see management for more trophy animals. Most of the larger animals are taken late in the gun season while the deer are in rut. By not allowing gun hunting then, there would be more trophy animals left for future years. Please see attached page.

Also in relation to the elk in area 623 and adjoining areas, one way to improve the elk hunting further would be to close more roads. At the present time most of the elk get chased to the willows for protection from hunters. If the roads through the Breaks were further apart the elk would probably find more areas to their liking. This would also tend to discourage the more casual hunters by making the elk more inaccessible. Please see other side.

Another problem that I have not personally seen but have heard

about is the wounding of too many animals. I am not sure the best way to help this problem. Elk are at best difficult to hunt and the bow is by its nature not as accurate nor has the knockdown power of a large rifle. However, many people, myself included, love to hunt with a bow. Perhaps archery education courses and proficiency tests would help. thanks for listening.

I don't like the fact that most roads are closed to 4X4 vehicles. All terrains are allowed. I think more gates should be unlocked.

I think the use of all terrain vehicles is having a vary bad effect on all hunting (rifle & bow) in Montana. I would like to see them restricted to established roads only, and no shooting from ATV's.

I think that more archery only areas could be established, especially where land owners don't want rifle hunters, but might allow bow hunters.

I love Montana and the opportunity to hunt big game.

The only thing that bothers me is the road closures during the rifle season. it seems during the bow season 90% of roads are open; but during rifle season there is 70% of roads are closed. Game management is fine, but over population in some areas are due to road closures and this is due to saving the road!!?

Generally, I am very satisfied with archery hunting in the area I hunt. However, I would like to see the logging roads bunkered to prevent access into prime habitat. I would really like to see an end put to the logging in the area I hunt because the operations are destroying much of the habitat that once held many elk.

There is no problem with 4X4's and atv's but the laws concerning "restricted to designated routes" should be inforced better. We need to work with private landowners - two ranches where I usually hunt were closed this year.

All terrain vehicles should have the same limits as trucks. Although I am quite satisfied with the bow season as it is now I think everthing should always be done to keep the game populations up, and the pressure from being too high. Thanks

I don't mind seeing roads closed during rifle season because it helps game populations. But now there's too many closed year-round. If they're closed to the public year-round they should be closed to the loggers, ranchers, miners, and people testing for gas and oil, too!

Everyone seems to get upset when they meet other people while hunting on public lands. We all must remember that other person has just as much right to that priveledge as we have! If that upsets the bowhunter he should be willing to hike a few miles off the roads where most people are to lazy to go and the hunting is

better anyway.

The biggest thing that upsets me is the use of aircraft for spotting and hunting game. It is unfair to other hunters and extremely unfair to the animals. If we can't harvest game the way we are supposed to those animals should be allowed to live. Aircraft hunting is the lowest, cheapest and most unethical form of hunting going on at the present time! It must be stopped!

I would like to see the permit system lifted from the Missouri Breaks, and then have our archery season left just the way it is. Let the archers regulate themselves concerning their distribution and hunting pressure.

I would also like to see limitations put on the use of airplanes, ATV's and four-wheel-drives. It is too easy for their users to violate the rules of fair chase.

I strongly am against any permits for archery unless they were set up like the 800 archery antelope hunt. I am in favor of closing down alot of the roads in the Missouri Breaks so that more personal effort is involved. I feel that aircraft, and atv's have really become a problem in recent years. I am overall pretty satisfied at Montana's archery hunting. Let's face it, we have it real good here in Montana.

The one thing that concerns me most is the use of airplanes for spotting elk in the breaks. I think its totally unsportsmanlike and should be put to an end. This year we worked for 3 days to find a big bull (spotting scope, etc.) then it took these jerks 1/2 hour to find it with their airplane. I thought bowhunting was supposed to be a challenge?

The use of All-Terrian vehicles should be stopped. Because up at district 318 people were driving all over the place (including meadows, closed-roads, Park with walking access only). Suggestion raise the fine of all-terrian vehicles.

I wish they wouldn't close the gate up McClellan Creek at the beginning of Hunting season because were I hunt in conjunction of the gate is about a 15 mile walk when the road goes within 5 miles.

My feelings mainly about archery & rifle hunting is that there are an awful lot of Road Closures dramatically affecting access to hunting areas. I feel there should be more careful consideration taken before road closures are enacted.

As you can see I am bitter about travle Restrictitons & Vehicle use during archery and Rifle seasons. if I have to walk in closed areas in Rifle we should do the same in Bow Season no 4x4's - All terrain or moter Vehicle at all. in closed areas, which are closed during Rifle Season.

Please outlaw all ATV vehicles for both archery & rifle seasons.

The Forest Service locked the road to our hunting Area. They forced us to use a private road to gain access to forest service land. There is now 3 ways to get to our area all across Private land. I feel this is going to create private hunting areas in the near future.

More pressure is exerted on game animals by the use of ATV's than by all the archers in the state of Montana. ATV's should not be allowed to be used during any phase of the hunting season. Also a modest increase in state license's should be considered but an increase in out-of-state license's is also needed. Montana sportsman pay taxes as well as the license fee's to hunt. The out-of-state license fee's in Montana are still one of the lowest in the nation. Just look at the price paid for the "Bighorn" license that was auctioned in the past two years. Out-of-staters are willing to pay more to hunt in Montana. I do not object to a license increase for Montana residence, but to raise of license fee's without raising out-of-state fees in an injustice to the Montana Sportsman.

The continued abuse of public lands & game by ATV's & four wheelers must, I repeat must be addressed. Additional road closures will help to eliminate unjustified access to prime hunting areas and areas of elk security, continued denial of access to public land across private property, or inability to hunt on private land (usually owned by a wealthy Californian) is becoming a royal pain in the _____. How can I win your Browning Cheyenne 65-80 lb compound bow if you don't give me a place to write my name down! I need a new bow!

ATV's are a problem - would like to see no off road travel other than game retrieval.
feel all bowhunters should take bowhunter education.
would like to see poaching fines greatly increased.
would like to see some road closings control access.

I see no reason to change the current regulations regarding archery season. I feel that it's rifle season that needs definite help. The hunting pressure on public lands is beginning to become unbearable although I have no problems I feel the regulations are too complicated for the average person. That contributes greatly to the success of FWP's game check stations preying upon the ignorance of others. I also greatly resent the closure of roads & trails on public lands that my father and myself have used for the past 50 years in order to create someone's utopian concept of wilderness.

More roads closed - permanent
more walking areas.

Would like to see a longer season and would pay more for better hunting areas with less roads & access.

I feel that after walking for miles and/or hours, and truly hunting, that seeing four or three wheeler tracks, is defeating the whole purpose of hunting the "back country". They should be restricted like 4x4's and other motor vehicles more aggressively.

It appears to me that all easily accessible areas that I hunt are saturated with hunters. More road closures seem appropriate.

The only place anyone from Eastern Montana can feasibly hunt elk is at Fort Peck.

If something must be done why not eliminate some of the spurs off the main roads. This alone will achieve greater elk numbers, reduce pressure, eliminate the non-serious hunter (rifle or archery) and provide quality hunting for everyone.

I would like to see more mountain road closures. To many road hunters.

Saw Military Aircraft (green helicopters) descending upon Elk herds twice on different occasions in Area 413 in Bow season.

Feel very strict travel restrictions should be in effect for all terrain vehicles in hunting areas. Should only be allowed on established, well used roads as with 4x4 trucks.

I enjoy Bow Hunting with the use of a Motor cycle, but there are many people starting to abuse them. I would like to see more law enforcement on motorcycle's or the total shut down on them. I hunt Buck Creek Ridge and to many cycle's have screwed up my hunting.

We pay taxes to use the forest services roads, but we are not able to because of the locked gates. They let motorcycles and ATV behind the gates but not trucks and I feel that is discriminating.

Some area's need less vehicle travel both 4x4 & All Terrain Vehicle. - & area's that are closed it need enforced.

Suggested Management Actions - (question 8)

I feel there is a need for more road closures of secondary logging roads before or during Bow season, except to vehicles under 40" wide for packing out of meat only. OR move the Oct 15th road closure date to Sept. 15, leaving the first 10 days of Bow season open. Bow hunting interest decreased after the first 2 weeks, except for serious hunters.

-strong need for some kind of Bowhunter education and competency course that is mandatory for everyone.

-would like to see a late season Damage type hunt for Elk that is

archery only. This could be tried as a management tool in areas of high residents or where guns are not safe to use.

-I have not had a problem in 1987 with Airplanes but it has been a major problem in previous season. They have ruined previous hunts in past seasons in the Missouri river breaks, and in western Mt., in the bitterroot mountains. Need similar laws as Alaska (ie) no flying and hunting on same day.

I really would like to see you "crack down" on lazy hunters, hunters with 4 wheelers, bikes, 3 wheelers, and 4x4's. I think Montanans are "Road Hunters" in a higher % of total hunters than they are in New York State. I think less traffic in hunting areas would help the bugling of bulls, in lots of areas closer to main roads where a lot of us can hunt. We don't all have horses or the \$\$ for guides & outfitters. I am approaching 50 years old & I go out & work for my game - I feel others should, too!

I hunt in the Bangtail Mtns. in District 393. I am disappointed with all of the vehicle traffic on closed roads. This reduces the hunting quality for those of us who prefer hunting on foot. This is a bigger problem in rifle season than in bow season, but it is irritating both seasons. Thanks.

It should be illegal to shoot rifles during bow season in any open archery area, unless you have a valid permit for another specie that is open i.e. moose, sheep, goat, that have overlapping seasons. Around Butte too many gun hunters go out and spook the game during bow season, some intentionally some unintentionally:

Also - please leave roads open during bow season. That's one more reason I don't like gun season as much as I used to, too many roads, private and public are closed. Granted, some closures are justified, but only maybe 50% of them. Given the choice - gun or bow - I would choose bow, no question. So would my son who is only 10, but goes along with me often. All my hunting partners feel the same way. But it is nice to be able to do both.

Close some more off Roads For archery season some on Rifle season. Have to choose Archery or Rifle.

The only real problems I have, are the use of all terrain vehicles and the difficulty of obtaining permission to hunt without paying money.

You have restricted the use of snowmobiles, 4x4, motorcycles in the Forests, supposed to prevent destruction & equal up everybody's chance. Why not horses. They eat food there for live game, tear up trail & leave dung all over everything.

I think we should try to limit the use of A.T.V.s for the retrieving of downed game only.

Forest Service making very difficult for S? to hunt.

Generally feel Mont. Dept and U.S. For. Service are using professional approach to game & habitat mgmt. Don't give in the the phony sportsmen's clubs who oppose reasonable management policies.

The area I hunt in has a D? problem with aircraft. I have seen as many as 3 different planes spotting in out Hunting Day. And I feel the state should do something about stopping it.

Now I hunt on Southside of Missouri River - Hunters on the North can hunt anywhere if they have the permit - They can hunt their area & the south side. I hunted on the North for 15 years & now I need a special permit - This really upsets me. I'm tried of airplanes bugging elk at CMR before & after & during the season.

More access is needed in some areas control of roads necessary in other areas

*elk winter range should be purchased & improved, priority on this

The all winter hunt in the Gallatin & Yellowstone is necessary but should be studies with more opportunity for archers.

I Bowhunt mainly as an excuse to be in the woods chasing elk and for the relaxing yet exhilarating experience related to bugling bull elk. My only complaint about Montana hunting is that too many areas are being logged off which leaves behind roads for ATV's to travel, increasing access and thus reducing the numbers of trophy animals. If you want to do something for the lek, close off more areas to motorized vehicles enforce it, and elk hunting will improve.

Fact, logging reduces hiding cover which increases vulnerability, and compounded by increased access results in higher kills and less trophy animals. I like elk meat but I like antlers to hang on the wall too!

I think that all of the archery hunting that I have been exposed to in Montana is fine. I think that the use of 4x4 trucks is some what abused on the C.M.R. Some idiots drive off of the roads. I think that should be stopped.

The use of ATV's and aircraft during archery season needs to be regulated and or banned. It causes much more stress to game then hunters horse back or afoot.

All through Archery & Rifle season I saw ATV's going through road closures, cross country, you name it. Other people I talked to saw the same thing. These slobs have to be cracked down on.
Thank You!!

I do not like or in any way agree with the us of airial big game hunting particularly in the Missouri Breaks area's

As for the number 11. I don't think people should be able to hunt out of these except to retrieve game. You should able to go in retrive you game instead dragging it over the rocks & so forth. But no hunting off of any vehicle.

As for shooting branch antlered bulls I'm a meat hunter. I would rather have a cow that time of the year. The way I looked at it, you can't eat the horns. When they rutting bull elk are loosing weight & not that good eating.

I hope District 324 could be open for Bowhunting again!
Keep forest service gates locked & add more!

My only suggestion is that many logging roads should be closed off before the start of bow season; don't wait until October 15. Otherwise I'm very happy with archery in Montana.

#1 - no ATV's #2 Require Rifle holders w/cow permits to shoot only cows.

List of landholders giving archery access.

More late season Archery No X bows - No Black Powder - Archery mix - no shortening of seasons.

Bow season in Montana is great. Orange signs suck. Their ruining Montana. Please put a stop to it and limit horse motorcycle and vehicle travel into forests. By pushing back vehicles and prohibiting them elk are easier to come across and less people disturb elk habitat. My biggest beef is the signs next is the motorcycles and four wheel drive vehicles.

One big problem I've seen during archery season is the use of ATV's. Many roads and trails are closed to motorized use October 1 or 15 for the general rifle season but are open for archery season. We need more roads and trails closed from Aug 15 and enforced. Also the fines for these violations need to be increased. Many people will risk a \$25 fine to retrieve an elk killed behind a gate. I've seen many roads that are signed closed and the closure listed on a map but the gate is open. If the gate is open some people will drive thru. We need to put more pressure on management agencies for consistancy and enforcement of these closures. I'm in favor of road and trail closures for elk security and improved hunter opportunity.

Even if the numbers of elk are low where I hunt, I enjoy the areas and the quality of the hunt. Airplane flying over to see what I was shooting caused me to lose a fine trophy. The plane was locating elk and that's bull_____!

The two problems I observe every year while hunting during

archery season and general season are the use of aircraft to spot elk, and the road hunter that continuously drives his rig off roads, and around gates.

I would like to see more walk in areas, because most hunters think they have to drive everywhere and disturb the elk. The 87 season was very hot and hunting was poor but I think the number of elk is on the increase. I would also like to see more branch antler bull areas to improve trophy hunting. Also I would suggest people having to buy elk and deer tags before the special drawings.

Tighter restrictions on all terrain vehicles are needed to stop game from being pushed out of an area.

To many roads and too much logging has greatly effected elk hunting. (Would be nice to see results of survey published.)

4x4 and ATC use is too high. Something should be done to insure their use on main roads only and enforce the idea that they cannot be used off road.

I own a 4x4 P.U. but still don't use it off road.

The hunting area is shrinking all the time, road hunters are taking to big of a toll on small deer and elk. I think the majority of roads should be gated during both hunting season to thin out the lazy hunters.

I've hunted 3 yrs. for elk, in places that have been tilled like barnyards in pre-season - But there certainly does not seem to be an over abundance of animals, as compared to the number of logging rds. criss-crossing prime habitat borders.

Two of my biggest complaints:

- 1) Archers are concentrated in the field - overcrowding in certain areas
- 2) The use of ATV's by a few are decreasing hunter opportunity for many.

The use of motorized vehicles in MT. has the greatest potential to ruin hunting for me & to disturb habitat requirements for the animals I hunt. Increased roading will lead to more of the same, legal or illegal as enforcement is poorly attempted. Most Montana grouse & big game rifle hunters I've met give the appearance of being lazy and uncaring slobs, when it comes to effort and concern for the game animals themselves. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Since I've bow hunted I've turned down many shots because I didn't feel it would be a clean kill. The thing gets a person mad is when you pack in someplace and someone drives in and shoots something in front of you. Vehicle use needs to be

limited. It definitely affects the movement of game.

Please explain how road closures in your opinion helps game populations? The only thing that I think this could & would do is make it harder for a successful hunter to get the animal out and in warm weather this is of primary concern.

We need more unroaded wilderness. Less access for motor vehicles. Require safety and hunting competence for all hunters including: Firearms safety, sportsmanship, proper killing and dressing of game. FWP could provide training for those who can't pass test or private people can teach. More enforcement visibility. I have yet to see hide or hair of any law dogs in the field except for Vince Tanone and he was ferrying elk meat in a _____ wheel barrow! But I was able to follow his distinctive trail to his special spot! So the hottest secret of the Elkhorns is out.

FWP should acquire big game winter range. U.S. Forest Service should restrict cattle & sheep grazing and strictly enforce limits on permittees.

I think there should be changes made concerning road closures so as to provide more access to the back-country. I also think that out of state hunting permits should increase in price and decrease in number.

When a walk in area is designated as such that should mean walk in. Not mountain bike or horse back but walk in. Limit the number of hunters & hunting camps into the Bob Marshall.

In area 410 to many people have no regard for staying on roads. tire tracks indicate some people drive where they please.

Talk has been brought up about ATV, and turning other areas into Wilderness. I oppose wilderness for the simple fact I enjoy the scenery so do women, retired people who can't walk in 5,10 miles. Outfitters and guides charge so much they feel the mountains are theirs. The mountains are for everyone.

ATVs are getting to be a real problem. I bowhunt because it is a challenge, it provides a good wilderness-type experience and it isn't easy. The big spenders are putting a lot of pressure on lots of areas with ATV's. Some are operated legally-some are not. I would like to see all ATV use banned, except for game retrieval, during the archery and general hunting seasons.

Generally, I am satisfied with the archery season, my complaint would be with off road vehicles, there are very few areas a person can go and not find make-shift roads, erosion caused by these vehicles, and trash littered about, and more importantly, game animals are chased by many of these irresponsible people, lets

get some responsible and tough laws and enforce them.

Walk in only areas do improve odds for animal hunter contact and improve hunt quality. Some areas need to be set aside for impaired hunters-where vehicle travel would be permitted.

Access on timber sale lands or on logging roads should be closed to all vehicles including all terrain vehicles as well as loggers etc. Keeping costs as low as possible for everyone to have an opportunity to hunt with a bow. With growing numbers of "bow hunters" commercialization of profits and sales are causing us not to police our own self respect among us in regard to ethics of 1)practice 2)judgement (yardage) 3)trespass privilege

More restrictions should be made for ATV's on forest service ground.

I think elk hunting is getting "tougher" due to the sheer numbers of people attempting to archery hunt. Part of the problem is over-abundant easy access to "high" country resulting in activity and camps nearly everywhere which cause the elk to be unusually wary. I also suspect bull numbers are relatively low--resulting in less challenging and perhaps less incentive to challenge due to fairly easy access to cows as a result of the ratio of bulls to cows.

I think that in areas like 323 a hunter should be able to take a machine in for game retrieval. As of now you can't run any motorized vehicle during the hunting seasons. Even if it was opened at 2:00 in the afternoon that would leave ample time to get animals out.

As this was my first year hunting with a bow I had much to learn. I saw quite a few animals and as such was pleased with overall experience with one exception. Archery is meant to be a quiet sport, but this silence was interrupted by many hunters on ATV's. I would not want these vehicles banned but I think the FWP could keep a closer watch on those riders who insist on riding down game trails etc.

In general I am satisfied with the archery season. My biggest complain, is the use of ATV's during bow season, which I feel should be heavily restricted.

Any management action should first consider reducing vehicle access, not necessarily to a entire area. A single traffic view would cure many off the problems encountered with managing game and people who hunt even. Education is ethics and people equipment use is also a point i stress.

In the past I have herd that aircraft has been used to move big game.

I think that big game should be aloud to migrate on there own.

Stop the green dot road closures use gates or ditches etc. There is not enough people to enforce.

Buy license before hunting season and before applying for permits for deer and elk.

If you receive a cow permit you must hunt in that area only.

If you receive a permit one year you can't send in the next year. We know many people receive them 2-3 years in a row up to 14 years in a row.

I do not like bird hunting because I am disabled and can't hike far in the woods so I situp and wait close in and the people shooting of the road and so many people are hunting the roads. The elk take off.

Oil and Gas helicopter exploration should be halted before the season begins. Rifle hunters are priveleged to be rid of the overhead distrubance. Archery hunters near Red Lodge are in close proximity to choppers several times a day. I hunted one day in elk habitat and said the hell with it.

The day someone shoots at those helicopters maybe someone in Fish and Game will notice. The hill behind the Parker rig is prime elk habitat. I've heard poison gas from that well is a real possibility. What provision is made for game which many days grazes near that rig in the event of a lethal gas effusion.

When it comes down to it there is much concern about bow hunting of elk and not of the other species. Possibly forcing a choice of hunting elk with a bow or rifle before the season might be best to lower pressure. I don't believe a choice needs to be forced with deer, antelope and bear. I've observed elk very closely over the past 5 years during bow season. The most drastic effect I've seen is the increased use of all-terrain vehicles by bow hunters. The ATV users go anywhere they please, especially in the 310 district. I've seen the elk mvoe out of an area immediately when the ATV's have left before they return to the area. I believe that the disturbances by ATV's and aircraft significantly affects elk distribution and breeding. It seems to me that if you want to decrease bow hunting pressure-remove the ATV's during bow season and this will elimiante the bow hunters who are not serious about it.

Also, if we are made to choose between rifle or bow, we shoudl not have to pay more to bow hunt.

Aircraft spotting in 455 and districts around Helena is out of

hand. Both fixed and rotary powered aircraft fly the gates everyday with no penalty or warnings making elk hunting with a bow a circus like event. Next year I'll hunt in Wyoming.

Late season on 1-24-88 snowmobiles in hunting district 310. About 4 elk but they were not taking out any elk. It was after noon. Still they should not have been in there. I think they were lost. All-terrain vehicles should be aware of where they are at.

I have been gone from Montana for 10 yrs. upon return to the same town again I found access to be much more difficult to obtain, plus the no. of deer seemed very much depleted. With mature bucks being the exception. We need more 4x4 areas and shorter gun seasons.

I would like to see more branch antlered areas for elk and four points or better areas for mule deer. For both rifle and bow hunters. -I would also like to see more roads closed to vehicles and less logging in areas that have already been heavily logged and when logging operations pull out the roads should be permanently closed-like in the Bangtail area.

I feel bow hunting should be open to all districts. There shouldn't be any permits for hunting in one district. We should be able to hunt using a horse and 4x4, or 4 wheeler or 3 wheeler.

I hope someday that there is more access roads opened to National Forest lands during seasons, not new roads just open the gates on the roads that are there.

I don't get to archery hunt as often as I would like to because of my job but I enjoy every minute I am hunting. I do feel the locked gates in the areas I hunt discriminate against me in favor of the horse riders who already have thousands of acres of wilderness to hunt.

I feel that this state has too much wilderness.

The only access is by horse or walk I don't have time to walk I believe motor bikes should be legal in all areas.

I think ATV's / motorcycles should be able to be used for game retrieval.

I think the areas you have closed off (walk in only i.e. 2917 really stinks, it shuts down a lot of area to bow hunters. I like the challenge of bow hunting but I don't believe that we put that much pressure on the big game. I would like to see those areas more accessible for bow hunters.

To many (forest service) lack game for warm weather hunting hard

to retrieve game in time

I feel the forest service could improve the roads, we have to travel on. They could also plan their work, other than during hunting season.

I believe the F.S. think they own federal land and not, us taxpayers.

I think that with either rifle or bow that the shooting of spikes should be outlawed. The amount of hunters with a bow in the Missouri breakes should be limited. They should crack down on airplanes all around that Lewistown area especially in Re breaks. every time I was in Re Missouri or Musselshell breaks I got buzzed by some airplane - sometime it was Fish & Game.

Some vehicle travel should be restricted the same as in rifle season. Some of the hunting areas should be cows only, leave the bull alone if the ratio is not high enough. The hunters should be able to shoot fairly consistent some of the hunter don't even practice at all or very little.

AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE PAST

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES TEAR UP THE SOIL AND FRIGHTEN THE ANIMALS THREE & FOUR WHEEL MOTORCYCLES SHOULD BE BANNED

I think its just fine just how it was this. not expensive. but there could be a few better things like, opening of closed roads and BPA roads. and a postseason hunting with bow for big game after rifle season.

The biggest threat in my hunting distric comes from our local Fish & Game biologist - Jerry Brown. I have found from discussions with him that he is an extreme preservationist. He is in a position where his personal philosophies are determining public policy. Big conflict of interest. Everyplace in the 100 district which is worth hunting, he has placed signs on the roads which say, "area behind this sign is closed to motorvehicles to protect big game". I thought only the congress of the U.S. had the power to designate wilderness areas. What good is it to by a license if they are going to close off the access to the game which you paid for?

What good are more elk if you can't look at them, or hunt them? I know there are a vocal minority of people who say they walk 20 miles before they start hunting, but I doubt it. My father cannot walk these distances. However if the roads were open he could hunt these areas along with the nature lovers.

Mountain bicycles should be allowed on established trails in wilderness areas and parks. They do not disturb flora, fauna or people; and you have to be in excellent shape to ride one on any mountain trail!

Need to quit closing all the roads so some of the old timers can still be able to hunt. Its not right, because some older people can't walk into some of these areas

roads closed in areas making impossible to hunt by older and crippled people these areas such as 283 could be more accessible by opening the road from elevation MT to scotty brauns fridge. this large of an area does not need complitly blocked off for just a few to hunt that can afford horses or are phyically able to back park in and then back pack out an elk.

Too many gates!

I would like to see more opportunities for Montana hunters whom do not own, or cannot afford horses for hunting. Also I do not think we should be forced into hinring an outfitter to take us hunting. Just because the government is closing the roads & trails.

I feel that you should close off all secondary roads and have people choose archery or rifle. Also you aould set up a way to test archery skills before selling licenses.

USFS looging roads are the main reason the quality of hunting is going down hill. Any time a hunter can sit on his fat ass to reach good hunting, good hunting will not last long.

Aircraft for scouting is unethical and should be illegal. I was stalking 4 bulls for over an hour when a small plane came in and started circling the bulls, they spooked. Then the plane flew to another area (within my view) and did the same thing. I almostshot the plane!

All hunters should be required to but licenses before opening day. Roads, (even gate closures) still increase hunter access via horses, bikes, ect. into areas where foot travel was once difficult. Increased hunter access and bugling by hunters has resulted in a reduction of security for the elk herds. This reduction in security has reduced the number of mature bulls as well as the herd numbers. Areas of security may well be a limiting factor for elk in many areas today. A prime example of this is the Mt. Bushnell area near St Regis

In the 1987 season weather was warm, some elk were lost to spoilage only saw this with out of state hunters with outfitters. Outfitters & guides need schooling in meat and downed game no matter how cold or hot no meat need ever be lost there is no excuse. (none) This is from a life time of hunting including being a guide in Montana. at this time I think it should be a no 1 priority for the fish and game

We need more elk in Montana. We need shooter competency tests. Outfitters have too much free run on policies regarding hunting.

They make things tough for residents who don't have much money.

Pack strings & horses have too much area open strickly to them. Let's keep them out of some areas also. Is this state going to be for only those who enlist the use of outfitters or own horses?

But most of all, why worry so much about bowhunter harvest and damage to herds while last year's survey shows that rifle hunters took over 10 times the branch antlered bulls. If anything should be changed maybe the heavy hunting pressure in winter range late season hunts should stop. Heck, fly the winter ranges, the game animals numbers are down.

Cut down the number of out of state hunters.

I don't think the outfitters should be able to have any special preferences or be able to buy up the out of state licensing packages. Also there should be regulations and fees stringent enough to control guides and outfitters.

I still don't think the outfitter should have that many big game license I know there is a lot of people that can not aford bouth

I feel that alot of out-of state hunters can hunt in this state for a very low price and the FWP should increase the amount for non-resident licenses. At least make it reasonable to other states and require these non-residents to have to hunt with a guide or outfitter.

I also feel the FWP should study the deer populations more before they sell all of their Btags. In certain areas there are not enough deer for people to go out and shoot does. And in other areas there are only hundreds of does and these are the only places these Btags should be filled. I'm sure there is some method to figure this out, otherwise one of these days there will be no deer to hunt.

Archery hunting is more enjoyable than hunting with rifle, primarily because it is more challenging, and more of a one-on-one experience with the wild. I would favor a law that would oppose Guides from guiding hunters during bow season. This would leave a time for just serious hunters to hunt and put themselves against nature without "paying" someone else to take you to, and bugle elk for you.

I don't think things need to be changed except for decreasing out of state licenses

I feel that out of staters and Montana residents alike are being railroaded into having to aquire outfitter & guide help. The outfitter & guide pressure on public lands is creating a lack of access for the average hunter. Prices may soon rise out of reach of the average Montana hunter. Public access to large blocks of Public land must be improved.

I feel the logging and its accompanying new access to new areas has more impact on the game distribution or game kill than hunting pressure per se.

when roads are blocked to vehicles so a person must walk 2-5 miles to hunt- Commercial people should not be allowed to set up tents & camps for out of staters & basically take over good hunting areas. example-Centennial valley on idaho border-

the No. side of Centennial was blocked for vehicles & outfitters moved right in & had their own private area. The average person cannot afford a house, tack, trailer & yr round maintenace costs.

More road closures during archery season. More inforcement of roads that are all ready closed.

There were too many forrest service roads closed by the Game Dept. That places too many hunters in open roady areas and makes it hard to get game out of closed areas, especially for the elder hunters. As plentiful as the game is I think closing so many roads is not necessary.

Have more concerns about snowmobiles than any other vehicles. I don't mind when they ride them to get where they want to hunt. But more times than not they chase the animals.

I think something should be done about the use of ORV's and 4 by 4's in bow hunting. At the beginning of the season, alot of people hunt from the road with them. How sporting can you get?!!

close more roads and keep out 4 wheelers

close more roads and stop 4 wheelers

I DON'T AGREE WITH THE ROAD CLOSURE THERE A CRIME AND A SORE SPOT IN OUR WILDERNESS. IF LIVED IN & HUNTED AROUND TROY MT. ALL MY 33 YEARS. IT UPSETS ME TERRIBLY WHEN I CAN'T GET TO AND SEE THE MOUNTAINS AND ITS INHABITANTS IN THEIR ENVIORMENT AND MAJESTIC SPLENDOR. SOME CLOSURES YES BUT NOT EVERY SIDE & SPUR ROAD.

I would say leave the Archery hunting the way it is as it is an enjoyable hunt to go out and not have the hunting pressure like in the regular rifle season as it has become in the last few years. I hunt not just for to shoot at all game I have a chance at, but for the fun of being able to get near them. I and my family have hunted and fished for thirty years in this 130 dist. area as being residents here have seen the change in the inviorment for game and fish to a point. Now where we may go to bow and arrow hunting in full earnest and leave the rifle hunting to the masses as this a Green Dot system we have here in our district 130 definatly does not work for the advantage of game or

hunter. I have walked in to areas three or more miles to get to game I know were in the area and when I get there I find there have been cars, trucks, etc already in on closed roads. and this happens on most all roads that are supposedly closed. we also have pushed our elk higher up into the Mts on acct of our extensive logging big clear cuts by private corporations & F.S.

I feel too many people are using accesses along Bitterroot River. Makes it too easy for people to poach. For the most part I'm pleased.

Aircraft hinderance during both archery and rifle season is getting to wide spread in my favorite hunting districts. Although there is undoubtedly harrassment of Big Game animals is apparaent, the local Fish & Game and Aviation Laws have to be changed, just because a pilot has a license to fly under 10,000 ft. fish & game officals seem to look the other way; even with posite I.D. with plane NO.S

Would like to see more road closures!

Close off more roads to vehicles and stricter laws.

I think one of the! problems with any wild animal population is accessability by roads. Speaking in general. Elk habitat Roads closed during regular season should close during bow season

I would like to see more roads closed so that people must walk to take pressure off the game also I would like to see branch antlered bull only in all areas around Kalispell, Elk hunting is very tough and inspite of this alot of spikes are taken annualy but not a whole lot of branch antlers are taken

I believe there is always room for improvement but generally archery hunting in Montana is good. I do think the increasing level of road and ATV encrouachment into heavy canopy areas is a serious threat.

There must be some way to prevent low flying private planes over Forest Service lands during archery season. Last fall my hunting partner and I were buzzed by a plane flying so low you could see the pilot! He circled us for an hour and we assume he was an outfitter scaring the game away from us archery hunters. I could probably have hit him with an arrow but I didn't want to waste one on the S.O.B.

I think the advent of walk-in areas could greatly increase the amount of elk that people will see. It's not written anywhere that says you should be able to drive up to an elk and shoot it. For some reason people think they should have good easy access to all public land. Access, yes! Be able to drive in, NO Let's use our heads and start managing for everyone not just special

interest groups.

SOME FOREST ROADS CLOSED TO SOON FOR GOOD HUNTING. ONLY HUNTERS THAT CAN AFFORD BIG CAMPS (HORSES, GUIDES, ETC.) CAN GET IN THESE AREAS, SO BIG GAME HUNTERS (WITH MONEY) FROM OUT OF STATE CAN GET THEIR GAME. WE HUNT FOR FOOD.

I think that the Fish and Game Department Might look out for airplane spotting of animals more in 1988 than in 1987.

#11 wouldn't it be advisable to close roads with gates - & hilly lumps -? Do some burns & improve living conditions for the elk. Start talking to your local RMEF chapter about matching funds & get going - I'm just about tired of survey after survey. -

If archers are required to hunt in one district only, nonresidents should be limited at the same proportion. The MDFWP simply must cooperate with the Forest Service on increasing and enforcing road closures. Road-building on U.S. and state lands should be more vigorously opposed by the MDFWP. The state should do a much better job of managing its lands. Right now, it's difficult to discern who does a worse job of managing its lands for wildlife and recreation: the state or champion. Both are strongly development oriented.

Poaching and spot-lighting is a critical problem in district 100 - especially in the Yaak. More law enforcement and stiffer penalties are needed. That means more wardens.

The MDFWP should closely monitor and advise on mineral development in the cabinet mountains, regarding its affects on wildlife and recreation and fisheries.

14. LICENSE/PERMIT ISSUES AND SUGGESTIONS. NUMBER AND LOCATION OF PERMITS, COST, ETC.

I think that drawing for elk tags for bow season was a real bad idea.

Rather than increasing licenses further, I would rather see F & G require hunters to purchase a license before filing for a special permit. This was the policy a few years ago. To me, this would seem to raise more revenue for game management than increasing tags.

Money for liscences should be accounted for in the areas it is spent. Should keep money in the east if it is spent in the east and so forth. The drawing for archery permitts in areas 621, 622, 623 should not have to be your first choice. It should be allowed to be your 2nd or 3rd.

I just heard you are raising fees again. It is beginning to appear that you are just like the gov. The more money you get the more you spent and the more you want and then you want more and more and more. You've raised the cost of tags almost every year for 10 years when are you going to quit?

I feel a person should possess not only the conservation license but also an elk tag before they can send for drawing of permits. This would cut down on the number of people sending to only those who are serious about hunting.

If archery hunters could only choose one species of game to hunt with a bow, most would choose elk hunting because elk are vocal during this time of year. The result would be increased hunting pressure on elk and elk would eventually become even more difficult to hunt. I personally think that this is a poor management idea.

I know you are anddo make a serious effort, in regards to wildlife and the public, but I believe the wrong person must be making decisions or makes wrong decisions. Sometimes when a comittee try to build a horse you final product look more likea camel. Right now your camel has one hump and I personally believe there will be two humps by Sept. 3rd. I deeply love being out there, kill or no kill, but the newest hump may have me internally saden if I have to draw for my area and don't. I've scouted my area year round for 4 years, 30 weekends 2 years ago. Please don't take my happiness in life away.

The only thing I disagree with in both archery and rifle season is our (local hunters) license fees went up but out of state licenses stayed the same. I think that is real unfair.

I would like to see the sale of all licenses stop on the opening day that season starts. To many times people hunt and kill animals without the proper tags or amount of tags to cover animals killed, then go to town and get their wife and friends to buy tags.

I would like to see a cut off date for purchase of archery and rifle licenses. I would like to see area 293 changed to a branch antlered only for archery as well as for rifle season.

In districts 651, 703, 650, area archery's not a problem rifle hunting is - give out less tags to them and the deer hunting will improve.

#13 I object to the permit elk season in the Missouri River Breaks. It wasn't the permit I objected to. It was the fact that I had to have the permit to hunt any other game animal in the area. It appears that someone is trying to build up the bulls for a private hunting area.

I would like to see the preference brought back because I would like to try to get a moose permit to hunt with my bow. I have tried to get a permit for 3 - 4 years and never have gotten one. Maybe open a moose archery season.

My comment on licensing is the only one that bugs me. I feel that buying a license should allow me to hunt. The choice of how I hunt should be mine. What I hunt, times, and species is yours. Paying for a separate archery license is not right after I already bought a hunting license for this privilege.

One can hardly hunt more than 3 - 4 days without incurring significant expenses, for gas, food, etc. All Montana licenses for hunting and fishing should be increased in fee amount, because the license is a very minor portion of the total hunting cost. Increased fee revenue could make a more healthy DFWP with bigger enforcement staff, better funding for buying or leasing access rights, and managing for more game.

Also, game should be managed for the good of the species, not for the maximum harvest by the most hunters. Quality hunting is more important than hunting.

Increase license fees, across the board for all types of licenses, both fishing and hunting. Hunting is a privilege, not a right. Hunters spend significantly more on the hunt, transportation, food, accessories and equipment than they do on fees. Fees should be raised to a more proper reflection of value.

I feel the legislating of more restrictions on elk hunters has decreased the interest. The cost is prohibitive for the average

native Montanan. If I have to cut red tape with dollars, I'd just as soon be a tourist hunting the big elk of Canada.

I have applied for area 447 now for at least 4 to 5 years for a special elk permit. The same people year after year get them - but not me. This is an area of concern that I feel needs to be looked at. The special permit drawing!

1) To improve hunter satisfaction conduct drawings so that a hunter has a specific time period such as 2 - 3 weeks that he can hunt. This would double or triple the number who would have an opportunity. 2) Conduct the drawing early as above to allow plenty of planning time. (Most of us hunt only 2 or 3 weeks anyway) with no names or numbers. Now can you conduct a drawing?

I think you should require that deer and especially elk tags should be bought and numbers written down on applications before they are sent in for special permits for does and cows. I see no way to do this for moose but I know some people put in for everyone in their family wether they hunt or not.

Why do archers have to pay extra to hunt?

I take a family of 4 deer and elk hunting. We enjoy it much. I don't wish to see fee's increase by too much. My boys are 13, 12, 16 and 41 (myself). Some of the restrictions you indicate would hurt our sport afield. We have answered these questions honestly and hope great consideration will be taken before any decisions are made.

I would like to see a special drawing for archery only permits.

Concerning archery hunting in area 410, I would like to see either the same application of permits as the 600 districts on the northside of the river or quit using a permit system for all areas. The reason for this is the increased number of archery hunters in area 410.

I think that archery hunting is safer and I think that some areas should be cut down on the number of tags sold and some should increase. I also think that crossbows should be allowed in certain areas of Montana and I think as long as it is not over a certune poundage.

I would like to see the number of hunters in a given area controlled, such as free permits but can only hunt specified areas on certain days. Tha would limit total numbers of hunters on a given area and day. Would be hard to set up for Fish and Game Commission.

I think that people should be allowed more than 2 permits for deer out near Kelly's Island.

1987 was the first year I really got serious about archery hunting. I really enjoyed it. I did not get an elk, but I feel it was due to lack of experience on my part. The weather was a little too warm, but I seen elk almost every day of an 8 day hunt. I plan to archery hunt every year. I hope it does not come to a drawing for archery permits. That would discourage beginners I think.

Should be more opportunities for archers to take limited drawing big game (ie) sheep and goats. Maybe have a percentage of drawing permits targeted for bow only.

In the 1985 and 1986 hunting season I feel there were way too many permits given for elk in area 447. It significantly affected the elk herd and put too much pressure on the ranchers that didn't charge for access to their land. This had a greater effect on my elk hunting but also deer hunting in this area than the number of archers in the following seasons. I also feel that the bowhunting education class for those who have already been bowhunting is a very stupid idea!

Since the deer population in the state is at an all-time high, why not give the archer an extra deer tag for an antlered deer. Many archers pass up antlered bucks because they want to rifle hunt during the rut. There are many states that do this.

Would like to see special permit areas (moose, goat , and sheep) that have been closed or are seeing a reduction in the amount of permits being given out be considered for an alternative, That being, the offering of a small amount of archery permits as a recreational opportunity maintained instead of a reduced or an eventually lost opportunity to any sportsman.

Make more tags available.

I have been talking to alot of my friends and we all agree that it is time people were required to buy their permits before they apply for special permits. This cuts down on the so called non-hunting wives that receive permits, then their hubies go harvest the game. I know alot of these people that don't even know how to shoot a bow or rifle!

Instead of longer doe seasons more B tags. We should be allowed 1 deer with a bow and 1 with a gun.

Strongly believe special elk permits should allow the person to hunt only in district that he has permit in, and not be able to hunt else where. Same as goat, moose, sheep etc.

Hunting in Montana for elk should be by drawing (both archery & rifle).

Less rifle permits more elk.

Archery Elk hunting is usually only participated in when no other permits are drawn. This year I received 3 special permits and did not hunt with my bow.

I feel that all licenses and permits should be purchased before the seasons begin. Permit drawings should require the purchase of Elk or deer tags before application. I know of to many incidents where non-hunters are applying and getting cow permits and friends or spouses are harvesting the animals.

I'm very picky about the shots I take in archery season. I have had opportunities but passed them up. Raise cost of Gardinier type winter hunt to \$5-\$8 Res, \$10-\$12 non-res. Ear mark all over \$2 computer fee - in 2-3 years would have good fund to transplant elk to Idaho, Wyoming & Montana. Create more hunting for everyone as well as building herds, nature viewing etc. Possibility of Montana Bowhunters, Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation, other sportsman's groups volunteering man power & transportation costs to distribute elk.

I think you charge an out rageous price for the nonresident hunter. More than 90% of then hunt the B.L.M. land school lands and Forest service land. I think there should be a liment of what is to fe charged for the nonresident sportsmans perments. They would not come to vacation if they couldn't hunt for a reasionable price of perments. I know a few who quit hunting in montana because of the attitude of some of the game wardens. I like to hunt and fish in Montana as much as the nonresidents do.

I have been a hunter in Montana evry since I was old enough. (16 years) The only complaint I realy have is people being able to draw for Special Permits (either sex) without first purchasing a license for tha anamil. As I know of several people who put in just to see how lucky they are. Thus taking either sex pemit's away from people who would use them.

I feel that hunting for elk with bow should not be limited for only one designated area since its so difficult to come across any elk close enough to get a shot. I think individuals should be given the priority to the area close to where they live to cut down the expense.

I mainly antelope hunt with a bow. I currently get a (800) tag which does not allow a me to get rifle tag for an area. My suggestion is make 800 archery a second choice rather than first.

I appreciate you asking.

(1) All tags (rifle & archery stamps) shouldn't be sold after opening day.

All restrictions should be equal between archery & rifle.

is it true that if you apply for a rifle permit first choice and bow for second or third choice that you do not get a chance for a rifle permit? If so that seems unfair.

I think that no license for either regular or archery should be sold after opening day.

Since I am a senior citizen I am concerned about increases in the costs to hunt legally. I hope that senior citizens will not be removed from the society of sportsmen.

Don't sell "b" tags for white-tails does in Area 703.

Crack down on trespassers and people taking animals illegally.

I would like to see a Archery "B" tag that would allow the hunter to take a buck mulies or whitetail.

This would still leave the hunter to use his "A" tag for a buck during rifle season.

Shooting a doe is no sport for me.

I am very much in favor of issuing all elk licences on a drawing basis - instead of unlimited general purchase. I think additional acquisition of winter game range is important. I also think public access to public lands, including state school lands, should be generated, by payment if necessary, or by FWP lease from the state or private owners. However more vehicular restrictions should be implemented where game security is questionable.

I would be willing to grant X-bows and muzzle loaders their own season in mid-October - say Oct 10-25, especially if a Dec. bow season for deer were implemented.

Overall I am satisfied with bow hunting in MT. I do feel that in some areas with very limited habitat archery hunters numbers should be limited for elk hunting to lessen the negative affects on the elk. I also feel that in areas like the Spring creek preserve that extra "A" tags could be sold for trophy hunting purposes, at a higher cost and still not adversely affect the population of big bucks, and in the process some money could be raised to help improve landowner relations in the area, through partial reimbursement for damage done by the deer. The money could also be awarded to the person on whose land the trophy was collected as an incentive for more access.

Where I hunt region 6 they have been really whacking does to reduce the population and giving non resident tags. They now have the numbers reduced. Would like to see them cut back on doe tags and reduce the number of non-residents. Any extra buck tags

should go to residents (25%) non-residents (75%).

A better, more fair, system is needed in the special permit drawing. Moose, goat, sheep - Why do the same people receive a permit year after year and other people apply for 15-20 years & never receive even one.

There are to many hunters opening day. I think you should stagger opening days in districts also draw for tags because their are so many poor sportsman who scare the animals this would cut down on huntes & animal fear. Also the amount of rifletags for deer should be cut down only allowing 1 deer per person. They are being overshot!

I have passed up many shots at different elk & deer, for I didn't want the possibility of wounding an animal and not recovering. I am glad I finally get the chance to view my opinion - main gripe is the cost of permits keep climbing and I can't draw a permit for sheep, moose or goat for Bowhunting only...Thank You!

I hunt in area 260 with my bow and buy an antlerless deer tag which to hunt there with. When I shoot an antlerless deer a buy another as soon as I can. Also, some people don't know if they are going to hunt or not until the season is underway. Therefore, I don't feel they should have to buy a lisenice before the season.

I think out of state premits should be cut back. Especially either sex permits for rifle season.

I lived and hunted in Alaska 4 15 yrs. to come down here and apply for permits to hunt antelope 1 place Elk another and deer clear across the state in another area just doesn't make much since to me Why can't archery hunters hunt where they like for what they want like the other states??? A transplanted bowhunter.

I moved here 13 yrs ago - primarily for Montana's big game season. I used to buy an A & B tag - now the populations are at alltime "higher" and I only get 1-A tag WHY? I've lived on the East coast and we do not - have the number population to adversley affect game population (bow/elk) a? so lets go back to A & B tags or at least allow 1 deer w/bow & 1 for rifle! - At least 90% of Archery hunters are also rifle hunters! We are not 2-distinct groups! Your welcome & thanks for putting this together!

1) We should have an extra buck tag for the river bottoms. Taking bucks won't hurt the herds as much as taking does.

2) - Also give out "cow tags" for archers, so they wont have to use their elk tag right away.

I would like to see a different permit system in the Missouri

Breaks Area where as one has to draw a Elk Archery permit to hunt elk but if He/She doesn't succeed in getting one, one still has his chance at drawing to a late season permits or other areas, not just to the Breaks and no where else!!

When we have to apply to hunt elk with archery gear on the North side of Ft. Peck, we always get a permit but are then automatically dropped from any chances of getting a special rifle permit. In effect, it becomes an either/or situation where we are forced to choose which method to hunt them with before season begins. All but the most dedicated archers will choose rifle. If we could hunt Ft. Peck with a bow and not sacrifice any chance for a rifle permit, you would get more money for archery permits and probably not have a very significant increase in numbers of elk taken. Let's face it, the percentage of archers that take elk is not really staggering.

I would be very much opposed to elk permits issued by drawings only. I like having the option of hunting several districts in order to locate game. To increase game populations during archery season, have antlered bull only areas.

The only thing I don't like about the elk archery is the drawings for special elk archery in the breaks. I think we should be able to put the archery choice second or third. This would allow hunters a chance to get a special late season elk permit.

Montana is a great state to live and hunt in. Would it be possible for residents only to get 2 A tags for archery season? And I would like to get my B tag to be usable during archery season, because I enjoy the challenge of hunting with a bow. Filling my B tag with a firearm is too easy.

I have put in for Elk permits for approx. 23 yrs. and have never recieved a permit. WHY? My wife has put in for Elk permits for approx. 14 yrs. and have NEVER recieved a permit. WHY??

Archery hunting is a fun & challenging sport. I would like to see the season extened past general season for deer hunting. Also I would be willing for pay more to get a tag with my archery stamp for deer. It would generate more money for the department & give us the chance for a deer with Bow & with rifle.

Unlimited elk archery permits with first choise in the special elk aplications is an excelent idea. What if does is weed out those part time hunters who are just killing time waiting for rifle season to start. This takes away nobodies opportunity to hunt elk with a rifle. They can always hunt for antlered bulls instead of worrying about if they got a cow permit or not. I have hunted area 621 & 623 for 20 years Ive seen hunters come & go. Even though there are more hunters, the hunting is getting better every year. I would favor the elimination of all rifle

hunting for elk in the Missouri Breaks. My biggest complaint is with the guides that are moving in to the breaks and the terrible maintenance of the roads.

Generally good archery program, however archers should be eligible for extra permits on antelope and deer the same as rifle hunters.

Please! examine the possibility of a B-archery deer license to allow a bowhunter to take a second buck (in addition to the one allowed on the A-tag. Statistics show that this would have no overall effect on the statewide deer harvest, yet increase revenues for Dept. from more stamps sold.

I think you should open a Season for moose with a Bow.

Would like to hunt antelope with a bow. cause I can't draw a permit for rifle season.

How about some arch-only sheep, goat & moose tags.

I have a comment on Question 8a. pg. 3

The only reason I'm opposed to this is the fact that it would diminish the number of archers in the state, & we, the Bowhunters, would loose a lot of Political Clout. With so many people anti-bowhunting, I don't feel we could stand the loss. But, I think it would certinally get rid of some of the slob hunters.

about question 8.e Sect II

I feel the price of Archery licenses should be increased and a few dollors from each be put toward purchasing land for archery only, and have tags issued by drawing only. And a person can't get one of these tags two years in a row.

The only thing that I'd like to see changed - I'd like to be able to hunt elk in areas 621,622,623, without giving up my cow permit in rifle season.

I here alot of gossip about wounded elk from arrows by rifle hunters. This irks me to no end because I've hunted elk with rifle for ten years, and out of time period I've seen more wounded Elk from bullets then from arrows. I quit hunting Elk with rifle in 1972 because all you see is flourescent organ around every tree. I never killed an Elk with a rifle. I quit hunting them until 1981. I got serious about Bow Hunting then. I took me util 84 before I even got ashoot at one w/a Bow. I've shot 2 time at Elk w/the Bow and killed both times.

I think its kind unfair for us archers to pay \$6.00 for Bow stamp plus all tags, when rifle hunters just have too buy tags.

I think as long as you charge Bow hunters too hunt - you should charge Rifle Hunters Too! There should be a Rifle Stamp.

Its king of unconstitutional to be charging for a Bow Stamp and

no a Rifle Stamp.

I think Bow Hunt oppt. are excellent in MT I don't like restrictions and price increases Because I primarily use Bowhunting as a way of scouting Gen. season areas, it is more exciting to cary a Bow, I also use Rubber Tipped Blunt Heads and score many hits without hurting the animal. I would like to ahve this aspect of Bowhunting Law more clear as some Game wardens say I can Blunt Deer, Elk as long as I have a Bow liscense others say it could be harrassing game they say its up to the individual Game Warden.

I think price icnreases in Fee's for the purchase of Wildlife Habitat are Good and Fair Ideas.

Another thought why can't we pay a subsantially higher Bowhunt fee say \$20 for Deer and \$40 for Elk and then also be allowed to Buy deer and Elk for Rifle season, I don't think Bowhunters kill enough game to make big differences in Numbers. However I'm not a Bioligist so I really don't know. Thanks

1. I don't like the idea of drawing for a special permit in the Missouri River Breaks. But this must be done to avoid the situation of too many hunters. I have hard 'luck' when it comes to the drawings so I shouldn't say this as it will reduce my odds. but since units 631 & 632 are drawings the permits could be reduced a little to offer a better hunt. The elk are always in the same holes each year so everyone hits those holes opening morning and we end up with one too many bow hunters rushing to get into the herd first. Doesn't make much of a hunt at that rate.

Also. The archery stamp is a joke. I realize the money is put to good use but its out of my pocket. Its ironic that I must purchase all the required permits and enter drawings to bow hunt, and then with all the correct tags I still must get an archery stamp to use the bow.

The rifle hunter gets his/her permit and off they go, no extra stamp is required. It seems a little unfair.

There are archery Elk hunters who consider the Big bull their only target. I can understand this, but only if a full attempt has been made to get the meat out once a big bull has been taken.

Although I don't think all licenses should be bought before opening day, I would like to see elk tags purchased before June 1 to be eligible for late hunts for Gardiner & the Gallatan. This would stop alot of people putting in for the "easy elk" (most years) for their wives and people who usually don't hunt elk - this takes away from the true elk hunter who really wants an elk. More importantly - It adds revenue for M.D.F.W.P. from June 1 to Oct. If I can remember right it used to be that way. I don't mind buying the tag in May if I'm going to hunt elk anyway, but I wouldn't buy the tag if I were wanting just the late hunt.

Would like to get an "A" tag for both Archery and gun season.

But only use one for each season.

All hunters (Rifle & Bow) should be required to have all licenses and stamps and tags Before Speical Drawings.

I think that if we have to pay extra fees for Archery, we should have sperate permits and be able to kill deer in both Archery and Rifle season.

Let archery hunters buy 'B' antelope tags good for rifle season also. You have priced me out of hunting waterfowl I will not buy another stamp at current rates! Good survey

When a free "unlimited" district is offered for archers who make it their first choice, that area should not be eligible for archers who use it for 2nd & 3rd choices. Archer's should have to make the choice of putting in for the unlimited area vs the limited areas.

In 631 you have to have a Elk permit to hunt deer, after I killed my elk I could no longer hunt that area. I feel that is wrong I should of been able to keep on hunting the area for deer after going through the draw for a permitt. thank you.

You should have to buy your lisens before you send in for your special permits. If you get a permit you should hunt in that area. If you are going to close the road, do it with a gate, not the green dot.

I think there should be a seperate drawing for brank bulls. in the 380 Archery season and another drawing for general season.

Mostly I am satisfied with present laws. I an concerned with the number of spikes that are killed both with bow & rifle as compared with mature bulls. I like the idea of an extra \$2 for wildlife. I also very much like the idea of buying your license before opening day.

Part III question 12

I only pass up cows if there is a bull with them. lone cows I dont pass up.

If you want good herd count quit commercializing our game to out of staters. The department has errored greatly in this area. You've over done it.

You've issued at least 60%, if not more, to many deer tags. I work for B.N. and I run the river bottom from Glendive to Forsyth. And were I use to see 300 white tails in one bunch, I see 50. in various place's. And I know the blood disorder didn't kill the majority of them. It was issueing of 5 tags over a period of 2 or 3 years thats done it. I put the blame on you who allowed or advocated that many tags.

I strongly urge the buying of all hunting license before opening day, both archery & rifle, this is a very effective way to sort out serious hunters. If the number of incidents of killing game & then getting the license happens thruout the state as I know of here in my area the number is very very high. with deer & elk many kill 2 or 3 & then get more license. and with bears killed in the area where I live, 301, I keep up on most of the kills and I feel approximately 30 to 40 percent of the bears are killed without a license, in the cottonwood, Hylite, Bear, Willson, Squaw Creek area last year these figures for 1987 are probably at 70 percent. Its a big hole in game management & encourages illegal kills. I would appreciate it if the Dept. would correspond with me on this, I would like to know why this hole is not plugged. Thank you, Ed ter Telgte, 909 Little Bear Rd. Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730.

Question in Part 11 8a & 8b

I would answer differently if it applied for only elk or only deer. My archery elk (primary hunt) is done by permit only now. If I don't receive a permit I'd still like to have the opportunity to hunt by rifle. I think there should be more permit areas in Western Mt. for elk archery!

I feel that for deer hunting a person should be allowed an A tag for archery and an A tag for rifle. Most of my archery hunting is limited to trying to fill a deer B tag. I have not shot at a? with archery equipment as I want to be absolutely sure of a killing shot. I'm a little concerned about archery wounded elk not being recovered.

Bow hunting is my only way to get a cow elk in this state until something is done about the drawing system/I have never drawn, but I know people who haven't lived here a year draw and many of the same people draw year after year! This makes me very disappointed with the system in times of less access I refuse to pay hunt in this state where I have lived and payed taxes for 31 years!!

I love Montana and all it has to offer as far as big game is concerned, but I think it would be a good idea for everyone to purchase their licenses before the hunting season opened. the reason is because it's too tempting for people to shoot a deer or elk first, then go into town and buy a license.

I would like to see more archery only deer hunting areas with more tags available to the archery hunter. I would also like to see the purchase of tags for the deer elk bear mandatory before season opening day.

1) The cost of licenses should be increased for the non farm ranch hunter. 2) the herds to be harvested to increase trophy bull numbers - ie more cow licenses. 3) game can be a big \$

resource to state & landowners, FW&P needs to enhance that role - refer to New Mexico. Thank you.

I feel the most important & the greatest thing about Montana's hunting, is the long season. It allows the hunters many opportunities to enjoy Montana's beautiful environment & most important the states precious wildlife. I moved here (Montana) 7 years ago to get away from permits & short Seasons in Colorado. Thank you for asking my opinion. P.S. all my friends agree about permits & long seasons.

If people were required to purchase all big game hunting licenses before seasons open, I do believe it will stop the number of poachers. (Those people who shoot big game then go and purchase a tag later. I don't believe big game tags should be able to be purchased after the season starts.

I feel that if there has to be a fee just for bow hunting, the bow hunter should be able to buy tags that are just for bow hunting - elk-deer-antelope. and also be eligible for rifle tags for the same species.

as a general rule elk hunting with a bow is a lot harder than with a rifle and more area's should be open to either sex without having to have special permits. thank you.

In regards to question 10 on pge 3 I think all hunters (rifle & archery) should have to buy their licences before opening day. I know of times people have got into a herd of elk and shot more than they had tags for and then had their friends or family buy tags. that would put an end to that.

If permitts were issued to those whose choice was their 1st choice or open hunting to all. Areas the elk are in owuld not be consentrated in areas that are not available to all hunters. Have hunters choose Gun or Bow & 1 area

The only thing that makes me mad is you guys keep raising the hunting fees every years. Us bow hunters are paying twice to hunt already, then you guys wonder why there is so much poaching going on. I think bird season should be later in the year after bow season to.

I would prefer, archery antelope and gun antelope, to be able to apply for both. - Maybe special archery drawing for moose.

I would like to see a deer tag expecially for archery and rifle. That way the hunter would be able to take two deer. I don't think they should do this with elk though.

I strongly agree with the suggestion to stop selling tags before opening day of season.

Require purchase of tags or licenses before season or drawings to eliminate casual hunters and shorten season 1 week off end require all permits for hunting in the "Breaks" no limit just to keep them from applying else where include muzzle loaders in a primitive season give more people a chance to recreate Increase cost a lot \$10-\$20 earmark all funds for habitat acquisition or improvement.

I would like to see separate lic, for gun and bow, another words by a lic for bowhunting for deer that would entitle you to take a deer and still buy one for gun that would entitle you to take another. Like North Dakota. And they have less deer than we do.

First I would like to see 2 A tags for PSallPS hunters. One being either sex whitetail. There is o way the whitetail will be overhunted. In some areas one "A" tag would be good for both whitetail & mule deer. A post season hunt for whitetails.

Archery license should be increased only if it includes a either species antlerless deer permitt. The increase should only be from \$6.00 to \$9.00 to include the deer tag. The area 416, has plenty of doe deer but few bucks one time we counted 35 deer in a 1/4 mile area maybe issuing tags for congested areas might help (to archers only)

Thankyou for this survey. Suggestion: In area #260 the "B" tags should be for either sex. We often pass up small bucks when we would shoot them if we were not saving any "A" tag for either rifle season or a larger buck. Thank you.

I would like to see all hunters apply for permits in 3 areas for each species and be given a license after a true-honest random drawing that shows no partiality with % quota for each area allowed to out of state hunters. Each hunter (In state) should be allowed at least one of the 3 preferences to hunnt in by either bow or rifle.

This survey does not represent a normal statistic for me as I was sick and could not use my permits to hunt this year. Thanks-

I must have \$300.00 worth of un-used tags I could not fill since I started hunting. Also I feel it should be legal to shoot a animal for a family member who has purchased a tag but could not hunt due to a illness, or hospitalization!!!

You should have to buy your tags before you sent in for special permits. Hunt in the area were your permits for. If they are going to close the roads do it with a gate, not the green dot system.

I feel that non-gunners should be able to avoid buying a license

including that right to use a gun on big game. Query: Why not have archery included in basic license-requiring arch hunt safety course also- but gunners by a stamp, because they access enter management.

I think it should be leagal to fill a tag for a family member who has bought a tag but cannot hunt due to illness, or hospitallization.

I greatly appreciate the efforts of the fish and game and enjoy hunting in MT. very much. I feel we have the best hunting in the lower 48 however I would realy like to see a second "A" tag available for archery hunting instead of an additional week of doe season; 90% of archery killed deer are anterless anyway. Thank you.

I think a hunter should have to wait 1 year after recieving a cow tag, before being eligble for the drawings. I think an applicant should be able to get one every 10 years or so don't you?

I feel the dept. fish wildlife and parks need to start checking the seriousness of issuing excess permits during rifle season in some areas, such as the gross mis management of the 700 districts. I was a Federal Police Officer in Miles City in the past thru to four years I have seen herds of 500 to 1,000 dwindle to 8 to 50- limitations of out of state permits and amount of B tags need to be reduced.

Land owner access is becoming more and more difficult. I feel Montana needs to do like several other states when a license is issued there is a seperate stub with license name, adress and conser. # also blank spaces for land owners name and adress to be sent in by land owner for part of license fee as they feed our wild game and have to put up with hunters.

I believe that all liscense should be bought before the seaseone open's. Archery or rifle. There is so many people that hunt till they get something then go and buy the tag at that time!

In reference to part II, 8F- Montana has a problem with drawings. The same people are winners year after year-whole families of them.

I would like to see a 2 tagsystem. One for rifle season and one for archery.

You should leave the hunters alone and get rid of wolves.

Raise nonresidents licenses and leave mine alone.

I don't like the draw system used in breaks.

The two main changes I would like to see are:

- 1- Licence to be purchased prior to season for both archery and rifle.
- 2- A post archery season for branch bulls and cows.

I think there is too many licenses given out for the number of big game animals and the protection they have to hide in, But I feel Montana residents should have first priorities in receiving licenses.

Let's draw for archery elk permits but leave archery deer hunting alone.

After filling out this survey I read in the MT. hunting and fishing news that if you wish to hunt elk in MT. with a bow you must apply for a permit! What is the purpose of this? Sounds like the jerk who dreamed up the MT. seatbelt law had his hand in this one too!

I am in favor of increasing archery license drastically. (20.00 to 25.00) I feel this would decrease the number of nonserious hunters afield. The extra moneys derived should be used to better elk habitat. (winter range)

I think elk have changed their habits over the last 10 yrs. In 1978-1982 I could go to St Regis area at most any time during bow season and get a answer. In the last two seasons I have not heard a bull bugle during the bow season. I think this is due to the pressure increases over the last 3 yrs. The early season is too long. It should be after general season.

Another thing that has to be changed is people should not be able to buy tags after the season has started. I know of many violations that occur because of this. Also I think that you should have to have a elk tag to put in for a permit. Thank you for the opportunity to state my views.

I think the season should open sooner.

I also feel there are large holes in the drawing system for permits. The computer seems to be stuck on the same names.

There is a wide concern in license fees. Each year they go up and something is added to cost the hunter a little more. Not counting regular license there's a bow license, bird stamp, waterfowl stamp, pheasant stamp. Then you have to buy a conservation license, fishing license, elk, deer, bear, trapping, and God knows what else. Where does it stop.

Next you'll want to separate license fees as male, female, deer or elk license costing \$10.00 a piece. Then it will be a duck stamp, separate from a goose stamp. Where does it stop!!!

As far as I'm concerned a bow license, bird, waterfowl, pheasant stamp, all should be kicked in for buying the regular license's.

I feel the deer population has taken a severe beating and the drawing amount should be dropped sharply for at least 3 or 4 years. The white tailed deer populations is the one hit the worst in the southern 650 region. Bucks should be 3 points or bigger.

I strongly oppose any FEE increases for the sole purpose of reducing the number of hunters. Living in Montana is a great privilege and all who do so should be able to partake of its resources. Let's not turn hunting into a rich man's sport.

All in all I appreciate the efforts that are made by FG&W&Parks. But they assume high tag costs can solve all their problems.

I feel the archery hunter deserves an extra deer for their tag. As a rule they can not sell enough extra deer tags in rifle season. Especially to non residents, while local hunters will not purchase them to try to build up herds.

I don't know what can be done about the \$6 archery stamp. But I think you should cancel it. If we pay 6 dollars we should get to kill another deer.

A 1986 issue of "Field and Stream" publicized the Missouri Breaks in Montana as a bow hunters paradise. This is the area my family has hunted for years, the elk used to be plentiful because they could be shot with a permit only. This is not so with a bow. This is the first year we didn't see a single elk. We ran across old bow hunters camps everywhere. Mainly Arizona and Oregon plates, as many as local hunters. This is a shame! It's time elk were only hunted by drawing, bow or rifle.

I don't see why we have to buy an archery stamp when we already had to buy all of our tags to begin with.

I do not feel it's fair that if you draw archery hunt at Missouri Breaks, that you are eliminated from any special rifle hunts!!

We need to transplant more and more elk each year-close elk hunting for bulls for 2 years-limit archery season each year-have drawings for archery stamp-do not sell big game licenses after opening day-general season-charge out of state hunters "triple" for their licenses-they can easily afford it.

I think there should be a way to give these special elk permits out to people who are going to give it an honest effort. I know of a lot of people that get permits and hardly get out of the house. You want some elk harvested, maybe be a little more

selective on who gets them.

Also, I think the Missouri breaks area should be a one time thing. You draw one permit and tht is it. It is the one area that you should be able to get an elk if you have a permit, and give it any effort at all.

I would like to see a statewide archery tag for antelope, in addition to the single area license available now. (More state revenue with very little effect on the antelope population)

I would also like to see a special archery license for moose, probably on a special drawing basis. (Again more state revenue)

I love to bow hunt, but I want to increase my chance to draw either sex elk during rifle season. So I've given up on hunting unit 622.

B tag over the counter archery only for either species. Buck only 4-point or better.

In the S.W. part of the state there is a fair amount of buying tags after big game is bagged together with transporting bagged game without tags-So I storngly recommend requiring that tags be bought prior to opening day.

If hunters have to choose between bow or rifle hunting I do not feel that bow hunters licenses should cost as much as rifle hunters licenses.

I would not pass up a cow for a bull and I would not pass up a spike for a branch antlered bull. This hunting in Montana is becoming a rich man's sport. I would like you to hold down license fees as much as possible.

As a rancher we must protect our property from all hunters so must remain at home. For the most part we have very few offenders but that few is miserable. I think a higher resident trophy fee license is in order with a cheaper doe (meat) license for food hunters- Some type of written permission be shown when buying licenses-including from-BLM, Forest Service-State-Private-a small fee to cover admin. costs would be reasonable.

The drawing system is not set up properly, it needs to be looked at. Having the drawings at each local district would make the system work much better.

The resident hunter needs to pay more. The state just "gives" the game away to the resident hunter. We also need to manage for bigger bulls and bucks and forget quantity for a year or two. The rifle and archery both need to cost more. They both need to pass tests to show how competent the hunter is.

I think you should be able to take more than one buck with the "A" tag. (antlered)

More antlered bucks to be taken.

I know of only a couple of bull elk being taken in the area I hunt. However opening week of general rifle season I think about 25-30 bull elk came through the Martin City check station. That is a lot of bulls for this area. I think bulls should be hunted by permit only. More walk in only areas and more controlled burns for elk habitat.

I feel that districts should be much smaller with limited number of hunters with quota set and the elk better managed. Everyone should apply for permits and the permits be separate from rifle. Not 1st choice for bow and rest for rifle. There should be certain number of elk harvested for each district and when bow season is over and all the elk have not been harvested then rifle season should harvest them.

I realize this would take a great deal of management but if it was required to contact local fish and game within so many days of killing an elk and reporting sex age ext. I feel this would work. Also this would require great knowledge of each location and the number of elk living there. Proper management would be essential. This would better the elk hunting and proper elk number of all areas in the state.

I think the fish and game should offer a liscense package that includes elk, deer, bear, upland birds, migratory water fowl, archery stamp, fishing stamp and conservaiton at a reduced price. By the time I buy all my ammunition, fishing and other hunting and outdoor equipment I can hardly afford to buy tags and licenses to enjoy what I want. If something doesn't give I will be forced to give up some of the things that I enjoy doing.

Question #13 should have a neutral response as a possibility.

All tags should be bought before opening day, and include declared hunting areas.

Every out of stater that comes all the way here to hunt obviously has plenty of cash! They'll still come no matter what it costs! There cost should increase 10 times and our tags should be cheaper. Every time you raise our tags and not theirs your promoting poaching by making it so the average person can't afford it legally but needs the meat, leaving them one thing to do, Poach. Get your heads out!

I would like to see a special white tail A tag come out, to enable the serious archer or persons who takes there hunting

seriously to maybe able to get two bucks.

A new law should be passed to require that "all" tags, for rifle or bow season be purchased before opening day. That would reduce the number of animals killed on a "NONHUNTERS" tag (e.g. mom, sister, etc.) Also eliminate "bear" tags from non-resident tags as well as the sportsmans tag.

I pay 2500 dols a year in state taxes yet others from out of state who pay nothing, get the permits. That's unfair.

I would like to see deer archery only tags sold for either sex deer which would cost around \$25.00, in addition to A & B tags.

I feel instead of selling five or six "B" tags to one person. The archery hunter should be allowed to take deer with bow and one with a rifle also. Because people who kill five or six does seem to throw away a lot of meat they get a thrill out of killing but don't like to care for the meat.

I feel it is unfair to change archers and drawing fee for the 800 antelope liscence because it is automatic. I also feel we should be able to bowhunt with the 800 liscence during rifle season. Just the same as if we were bow hunting with a regular permitt.

I feel that an additional either sex deer tag should be issued with a archery liscence. I also feel that antelope tag culd be made available. These are for archery only.

I'm generally opposed to drawings, license fee increases etc. designed to reduce number of archers until similar restrictions are applied to rifle hunting. I would favor drawings for all species during general season.

I HAVE MANY NON-RESIDENT FRIENDS THAT WOULD LIKE TO SEE ELK - ARCHERY ONLY TAGS AVAILABLE OR DEER - ARCHERY ONLY TAGS AVAILABLE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE NON-RESIDENT BIG GAME LICENSE. I BELIEVE THAT HUNTING PRESSURE COULD BE CONTROLLED BY TIME LIMITATIONS ON THE TAGS, OR MAKING OVER THE COUNTER TAGS AVAILABLE ON A LIMITED BASIS.

I am generally very pleased with the game managment in the state. I would like to have liscences purchased before applying for special permits though

I favor having to buy hunting licenses before hunting season starts I work at Fred Meyer B & B & see alot of people buying licenses AFTERseason opens. WHY?

I think the system works quite well. I do wish that all hunting licenses should be bought on or before the first day of hunting. One of many good reasons is that people couldn't kill first &

then buy a license.

Let's get busy increasing the elk populations in N.W. Mont. not to kill them, just so we can see these fabulous animals more often. Too many people in the Libby area shoot multiple deer then tag them with a tag from a wife, mother, dog, etc. Make people buy the tickets (tags) before opening day of each season. Also, let's shorten the Bear season up here (spring).

Archery AND rifle seasons:

1. limit road access
2. Each specie tag good ONLY ONE AREA
3. ELK COW TAG holders can NOT take a bull
4. All areas have bull elk drawing on quota system-permit valid then for archery or rifle. The permit is then limiting the hunter to the specific area he applied for...he may not hunt "anyplace" for elk.

I hunt both seasons...I have taken 15 elk in 16 seasons; all with rifle(so far). Montana needs to get a better control of hunting. If a hunter applies for a permit (it is his decision to apply), if he gets drawn for that permit-he is then obligated to that area for that sex...

I think the drawing system needs to get a little fairer. Some families get up to 4 or 5 cow permits and it is not fair.

Hunting in the state of Montana has changed in the last 20 yrs to the point that its starting to become a rich persons sport. I don't like to see that. Hunting fees for license go up almost yearly I'm personally tired of it. please leave the game management where it is now so that the working class in Montana can afford to hunt along with out of state people.

In lieu of providing incentives; why not make people who fail to return harvest reports/survey ineligible for any special drawings

I didn't get a special tag ever, my wife and I lend the state over \$325. - a year in drawing fees and get nothing while the same people get the special permits year in and year out. That seems unfair to me.

I would like to see archery only districts, other than River Bottoms, during general gun season. I would also like to see more permits (Moose, Goat, Sheep) issued on an archery only basis. Thankyou Keep up the work!

One of the biggest frustrations is drawing for special tags - especiall antelope in the 300 area - I would like to see 800 series tags include all areas with 100 permits or more. Also Goat, Sheep & Moose tags with archery only designation would allow the serious Bowhunter greater opportunities to collect these trophies. Even 5% would be greatly appreciated

Either or tags should be by species.

Example: you could draw an archery Deer or Elk, but you could elect to apply for a rifle antelope or Moose.

Bear tags should be valid for both Bow & Fire arms because of the dangerous nature of these animals.

I FEEL A LAW SHOULD BE PASSED ALLOWING A HUNTER TO KILL ONLY ONE TROPHY, GOAT, SHEEP, GRIZ, (PERMIT) (HUNTING ANIMALS) PER LIFETIME.

The best item here is the requirement that big game tags be bought before the season opens. It would eliminate the guy who hunts first and buys the tag later and should increase fines paid by these guys getting caught more. A good idea that should increase revenues.

In Pennsylvania it is required by law to send in the state portion of your big game license within a couple of days when your animal is killed. Appropriate information is documented (location, date, sex of animal, size of animal etc). This procedure might work in Montana to inventory harvests. (The harvester pays postage).

I came to MT to hunt & fish. The wildlife situation is really good compared to back east. But MT needs, in my opinion, to start innovating licensing procedures. Such things as more trophy districts only, does only, spike bulls only etc. I think MT is trying to do this but I think there needs to be more of it. The idea of increasing license fees to purchase/improve wildlife habitat is great. Another issue of great concern to me & landowners is vehicle traffic in Eastern MT hunting districts. Is there any way that FW & P can designate some hunting districts as walk-in hunting only? Travel would be limited to county roads only. I don't know if that would work but if it was the law more people would follow it.

Dear Sirs,

Also about this elk thing. You want to make it bull's only in certain areas. These areas do not have a good bull ratio to begin with. And once you do that and people shoot the few bull's that are left in a herd, what is left for breeding the numerous cows.

People let's wake up and do things right the first time. We have to shut down or shorten certain hunting districts. And maybe open certain areas for Cow's only.

But my point is you come on to a herd of elk and there is one or two big bulls with 50 to 60 cows, which is not unusual in some districts.

The hunter is going to shoot one or both the bull's before they even look at a cow.

So why the bull's only deal in districts that have a high ratio of cow's. Those bulls will be killed first anyway before some

one shots the cow.

So please think about what I am saying here.

In the fisher river area there are 100 cow's per 3 bull's. And you want to put a bull's only hunt in that area, wake up.

Like I said before let's do it right the first time and we can save our elk herd. Sincerely, Rick M.

There is a wide concern in license fees. Each year they go up and something is added to cost the hunter a little more. Not counting regular license, there's a bow license, bird stamp, waterfowl stamp, pheasant stamp. Then you have to buy a conservation license, fishing license, elk, deer, bear, trapping, and God knows what else. Where does it stop.

Next, you'll want to separate license fees as Male, female, deer or elk license. Costing \$10.00 apiece. Then it will be a duck stamp, separate from a goose stamp. Where does it stop!!

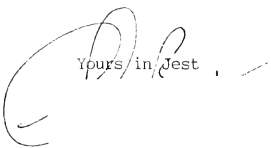
As far as I'm concerned a bow license, bird, waterfowl, pheasant stamp, all should be kicked in for buying the regular license.

To Whom it may concern;

JAN. 24, 1988

I have participated in several of your surveys over the years including keeping a fishing log. I must admit that I enjoy being of help to you people at the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and feel you are doing a great job, in general, of managing the fish, the wildlife and the parks.

My problem is this. I never seem to get any of the really "good" special permits. By this I mean the mountain goat, bighorn sheep, or moose permits. Of course, this year, again, I will apply for all of these permits and I would like to ask a favor. Could you please see to it that I get one of the aforementioned permits? It doesn't really matter which permit I get or in which area it is in I would just like to get one. I will be watching my mail box in happy anticipation this coming August for one of these "good" permits.



Yours in Jest ,

P.S. viva Patrick F. McManus

15. FEE HUNTING, LANDOWNER/SPORTSMEN ISSUES. PUBLIC ACCESS.

I feel very strong about access to all public lands. In fact belong to a local access coalition group.

I also feel more could be done to provide access on private land, including reduction of tax breaks and subsidy programs.

It is a shame that large landowners both in state and out of state owners control access to public lands which are excellent hunting areas. Not because they are against hunting but are in the business of harvesting elk for financial gain. My feeling is that the elk they harvest belong to the public land and I resent, as a member of the public, the unfair control they (large landowners) exercise against me.

More access to public land if ranches and farms are taking state and federal help. There land should be somehow open to public not leased.

I am a landowner and over the years the bow hunters are giving us a lot of trouble with fences and other property. It would be nice if the fish and game would take responsibility for the six miles of fence I have to put up each year. From now on our ground is closed to all hunting, because I'm tired of picking up after all the slob hunters that run the elk with 4x4 and on foot.

Primarily wanted to hunt deer in Tenton-Springs area at Choteau, but could not find any landowner to give permission. Pass information to Region office and they were aware of problem.

The one real complaint I have is around our district 215 that alot of hunters that own land is they get permission from nearby landowners and run elk on to their land and then you can't hunt their land even though they drive trucks onto other land to chase them to their land.

I feel more time and money's should be used to get access to the public lands that are not available to hunt on just because somebody has that land surrounded by private land.

I also feel that the game and fish should have a little more concern when checking a hunters license instead of making him feel like they want to find him in violation with the laws and making him feel like he is a criminal for hunting.

I feel access to privite land is very poor. There should be better landowner - sportsman relationship - no pay hunting.

Way to much fee hunting any more.

The main thing I think is needed in archery hunting as well as rifle hunting is access availability to all federal, state, BLM land, etc. After all, this is "our" land, we should be allowed to use it.

The big problem with rifle hunting is adaquit access to hunting areas. More and more private land is being shut off so access to federal land is almost impossible.

Didn't hunt very hard during 1987, planned to do more but didn't work out. Love bow hunting - It's tough. Need more access to private ranchs - to many ranchers want to charge to harvest our elk!

Make it easier to find out who own's or leases property; so you can at least try to obtain permission to hunt on those lands.

It's not right to pay the ranchers money because the wildlife tear up their stuff. Most ranchers WON'T let you hunt, plus it's not right for their cattle to graze on national forest land which leaves nothing for the deer and elk to fed off of so then the wildlife have no chice but to fed off their haystacks. Letting just a couple people hunt their land because maybe they are close friends, does NOT constitute telling Fish and Game that they allowed hunting in order to collect money for damage. What good are permits if no one will let you hunt. Ranchers seem to be friendly until sudden they don't know you. It seems like everywhere you go to ask permission to hunt, the ranchers have already posted their "no hunting" signs. Alot of ranchers won't let you cross their land in order to hunt National Forest so you tell me where a person is supposed to go.

From 1980 to 1984 I bow hunted in areas 418 and 420. Now the land owner is charging to hunt. I think this is a problem the Fish and Game should address before the local hunter is puched out due to the growing number of land owners chargeingboth bow and gun hunters.

I'm sorry for the delay in returning this survey but in Dec. I was sent to Italy and the survey was sent to my new address. I hope the delay didn't hurt your survey.

Accessto private land has become very difficult in the past few years. I feel the landowner should be reimburst for game taken from their property by the State Fish and Game.

More effort is required to reach better arrangements between land owners and hunters and state to provide more hunting access, also better mapping and access information to public lands in state, especially Eastern portion.

I have had problems in getting landowner permission for

bowhunting. They will allow me to hunt rifle same season.

I think land owners should let archers on there land to hunt. There should be more elk too.

I think most of the money should go to farmers and ranchers for crop damage because they feed the elk and keep them alive.

I think we need more trophy sized elk. We need more branch antlered areas. We need to buy more private land and make it into forest land. We need more through roads and people to check forest land from being shut buy ranchers locking gates and painting gates orange if there only leasing it from the state of Montana. We need more control on cattle being in elk wintering ranges. What are the elk supposed to eat when the cattle have allready ate there winter feed. Then we have to listen to the ranchers bitch, because elk are in there haystacks. Leave the cattle out of the mountains, they don't belong there. Just because we don't have the money they do. We have to try and help the wildlife of Montana.

The quantity and condition of the elk population which I have encountered seem excellent. The only problem is gaining access via privately owned property to hunt the animals.

I would like to have a deer tag come with the archery stamp, or use all the money to buy access to private land and trailheads.

Private landowners should not be allowed to use wildlife for personal gain. They should also not be allowed to utilize their property for game preserves. The properties should either be open to public hunting or closed to all hunting and the game herds scattered from properties during season for hunter accessibility.

I think archery season should be set back because the past years the people that have shot a animal during archery season have spoiled because the weather is to hot. Also I think its a joke to pay the landowner to hunt, there not their animals. I'll quit hunting if I have to pay them.

Next year I'll have to drive a lot farther to hunt in area 700, otherwise I'm forced to hunt elk in one area north of Missouri. I want freedom to go where the elk are in areas 623, 622, 631. Pretty soon private landowners will shut down hunting on their land, but if you want to pay . . .

"If it ain't broke - don't fix it." The type and direction of the questions in this survey disturbs me. They appear to be prejudiced in nature, rather than a quest to improve hunting in Montana. As sportsman, landowners, and administrators, we should be striving for acceptable answers to the real tough questions

facing everyone involved: 1) How to get landowners and sportsmen together. 2) How to obtain access to public land locked behind private land. 3) How to eliminate the threat of fee hunting so everyone can afford to hunt in Montana.

I fully concur with the program implemented in the Tizer's this past season.

There is considerable scouting of elk by airplane over the Marysville areas.

There is considerable poaching by "locals" around the Marysville area. Deer are becoming a rarity.

I was fortunate enough to hunt between Confederate Gulch and Duck Creek on the lake side of the mountains one year. Unbelievable herd of elk and deer. Also wild turkey. We paid \$3000.00 for the privilege. Ten of us comprised the camp. The next year the Flynn Ranch took over the area and are charging \$250 per day. Most of this property is State and Federal Land.

Would like to see more access to public lands and elimination of "fee" hunting.

I spend more money and time hunting. Had opportunity to see several elk but did not shoot because I was to far a good kill. I would like to see more access to public land.

I think we should pass legislation that would outlaw fee hunting!! If we can't do that, I would be willing to pay more for a tag if the money went back to the landowner who permitted me to take game from his property.

We need better access to public lands. Many ranches (most all now) have closed their property to access public land. The entire west side of the Madison Range - area 362 is completely unaccessable with the exception of Indian Creek, South Indian and areas south and southeast. Corral Creek, Armitage, Old Pearson spread, Sun Ranch, Wolf Creek, etc. are all closed and access to public land more difficult.

I do like archery hunting in Montana. I do not mind seeing the farmers charging you. But only if you get the game.

I feel it is time that the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Dept. realize that a substantial amount of funding for the dept. comes from hunters (sportsmen) and tax payers and that we have no support towards access to state lands. It is a shame that the legislative and ranchers have more rights to our state land especially on state leased land for cattle grazing. I would like to see it some day where a rancher has to have his cattle or

(leased rights) ended on a certain date (for example Sept. 15 of each year) and access to that state land open to the general public.

I don't think private land owners should be able to charge money to hunt on their land. And if so they should be liable for any injury or accident as you are liable for any damage on their property.

There's really not a lot of prime land opened for elk hunting. A lot of private owners have the land locked up. What can we do??

The biggest complaint I have is that there is a lot of trouble in getting access through private land to get to public hunting land. This should not happen. I feel I have a right to hunt on public land and that the owner must allow access thru his land to get to public land. Ex. Their are two parcels of land that are surrounded by private land and no one will allow access.

I also feel that when a landowner charges for trespass fee or a fee to hunt on his land they should not be compensated in any way by state or federal funds. Ex. During the 87 season at the Teton Game Preserve only the Newman Ranch allowed bow hunters. Mr. Sailor and Mr. Moore did not allow hunting. I do favor a \$2.00 - \$5.00 increase in hunting fees that would be used to pay land owners for access rights.

If hunting in general - meaning rifle and archery, continues in the direction the way it has in the past few years, such as the problems of getting on land and the fees going up constantly. I will have to give up hunting for golf. When it cost more money and is more of a pain then the enjoyment I'm getting out of it, it's not worth it. Why do some people get moose permits ect. yearly and I have yet to get one.

I really think MFWP should look at opening all of the state land. it is some of these same people that have problems with elk later in year. Elk stay on this land, they know it is safe. After all we do pay taxes.

I think something should be done about these large corporate owned ranches that provide a refuge for elk herds and then use these elk for there own personal gains, a do not allow any non paying hunters to hunt them, archery or rifle. After all the wildlife in our state do belong to the public, and the public should have access to them. These ranches selling out wildlife for there own gain. And I think this is going to become a very serious problem. Lets not let our state become like the state of Texas where you have to pay a year fee to private land owners for a yearly lease ranging from \$300 to \$600 just to hunt deer etc., because there is very little public land to hunt in that state. So let not lose sight of what stated in our state and try not to

let it get out of had. The wildlife of our state should belong to the people of our state and not anyone or corporate landowner.

I am please in general with the archery season as is but feel a strong need for more land access to public ground. I am also strongly opposed to the use of crossbows or black powder rifles during the regular archery seasons.

Allow more access to public lands for the average hunter, not just the outfitter and guides.

Too many ranchers in this area 423 will not let somebody hunt unless they pay too high a fee exp. \$250.00 a day, no guarantee both bow and rifle season then complain about crop damage and request special hunts and then demand the game fees.

The main problem with hunting in Montana is the onset of fee hunting. Everything should be done to protect and gain public access to Public Domain Land.

Access to quality range land at the base of the mountains needs to be improved. To do this, some type of program that satisfies the landowners needs to be established. Generally, I am opposed to private for-fee hunting. However, through increased hunting liscince fees, a program to buy access on private lands could be started. Landowners who cooperate should be entitled to monetary rewards.

I feel that archery hunters have a hard time getting access to private land. Archery season is hard hunting. I know people personaly that have hunted 4 to 5 years & have never got a reel good shot so never took one. Myself I've hunted maybe 4 years & shot bucks two years out of four, so I'm doing okay! Both 3X4 whitetail out of tree stands!

I would like to see acess increased to most forest service and BLM land. If I have to pay for acess, I will quit hunting all together. People that profit by having access to public land and keep that land closed should be made to keep acess open for walkin hunting only. No horses, or 4X4's ro ATV's.

The only complaint I have is the closing of private land which has access to public land. Its getting to be a big problem.

It is beccomming harder to gain access to public land locked up by private land owners. There should be roads to the public land. My money helps pay for these lands & then thay are leased to big ranches which keeps me from using the land. If the public can not use this land when leased out to big ranches then the land should not be leased out.

I think we should close alot of the public access because of the

spread of noxious weeds which will eliminate vegetation that wildlife is so dependent upon.

MDFWP must acquire more winter ranges and get better access to public lands and on state school lands - There is too much commercialization of all hunting - too many outfitters -

We all need more access to private land. Landowners can be real _____, but a bad time on two from other hunters ruin it all for us all.

Quite a few land owners on the Spring creek preserve closed their lands to hunting because of what they feel is the Fish and Games failure to help them control overpopulation and hay loss. Better public relations are necessary because this protest is only making it worse for everyone except of course the Deer.

Ranchers receive too much pressure from hunters that are trying to gain access to hunt. This is mostly due to the fact that very few ranchers allow free hunting any longer. Most ranchers express their anger over the high water/Nav. River laws by not allowing the general public access through their property. Too much BLM, Forestry property is land locked by private property which has been leased out to licensed outfitters for out of state hunters. I tough it out here in Montana through good and bad times - when it comes time to hunt I don't like the fact that out of state money can take away so much prime hunting from Montana's Residents

I feel that ranchers who use federal land and state land for grazing and then don't allow access to that land should loose there lease.

The only problem that I have encountered on a recurring basis is that of getting onto PUBLIC land. Almost all have an access, but to get to where you want to hunt requires a long pack in/out and wouldn't be worth it. Many landowners lease trespass/hunting rights to outfitters who use the public lands as their own, personal playgrounds. Last season, I was told to get off public land because an outfitter had "leased" it. Bull_____!! I hunt only "trophy" with a bow, and would really hate to lose this privelege. Thank you for your efforts.

I think that more time, and pressure, needs to be spent gaining easements thru private land to public land. To many individuals have private preserves by simply not allowing public access to public land. Secondly, people who lease public land should not be allowed to prohib. the public from use of that leased land. A lease clause should be added guaranteeing public use of the leased land.

Hunting 1987 Elk was great except for the fact that private land owners who lease their property to out of state hunters and close all the gates on county roads! With disrespect for CMR's hunting areas along the Fort Peck which I spent \$8.00 to hunt but cannot get to. Very disappointing that men can control the Elk population that I am paying for as a Montana taxpayer also and buying licences and permits.

I would like to see access in the Molharon Creek and Cinabare Basin area. Also eight mile creek in the yellowston valley needs access.

I think money should be used to feed elk leaving yellowstone like what is done a Jackson Hole, also the park service should help with aid in the project.

I believe we have a good archery season. It would be nice if there was an extened season for bow hunting in Dec. Also many elk in this area in and around Missoula area are taking up their habitat in ranchers back yards. And alot of these people will not let anyone hunt, but I've heard they ask for state funds to help them feed the animals. possibly seet up by permit only, hunts for these ranches to control the herds.

I hunt on public lands only. I am opposed to fee hunting of wild animals in any form. More attention to access on public land is necessary with time and money spent in that direction than in excessive opinion polls.

The biggest problem in the future is access - landowners need to be told of the funding available now for fencing lay-yards & the F & G along with sporting groups had better find a system that will some way reimburse landowners for writing permission. P>S> I don't own land either.

In the area that I hunted Elk a guide had bought a ranch and closed off access to C.M.R. Land. I think that something should be done to asure access to public land.

So many of the "good" hunting areas are being leased out, that people with the most money get the best hunting and there usually from out of state. While people like myself struggle to find a decent hunting area, and if your lucky enough to find one you usually have to be careful not to shoot or be shot at by all the rest of the hunters who don't have enough money to hunt on private land.

I strongly incourage action to prevent or linit fee hunting (ie tresspass fees). I believe the sportsmans license fees pay for the management of wildlife in general and therefore the sportsman or public should have rightful access to the wildlife. Those landowners requiring fees to access the public wildlife should be taxed heavily as to make such tresspass fees redundant!!

People who don't allow hunting on their property should be forced to allow guides to enter their property on hunts or pay a tax to keep people off. WE LIVE IN MONTANA BECAUSE OF OUR FREEDOM!

The only t? I feel really needs improvement is access to public lands! More & more areas are being utilized by a select few. We need more access sites.

For ranchers & farmers that have alot of cow elk feeding on their land they should have a cow only m? bulls hunt to thin out the cows. I know alot of bowhunters that would love to go in and hunt just cows - me included.

My major concern today is hunter access. Much more should be done in directing funds toward improving hunter-landowner relations and added impetus AGAINST fee hunting. Maybe someone else (or some other group) should be helping to decide how our monies are being spent.

My only opinion is the amt of deer that one person could take in one year.

Another problem I see happening is Pay Hunting. I think I would quit first. Thank you.

Access to public land is becoming more of a problem each year. Pay to hunt area's are becoming a problem also. Big game & birds belong to all of Montana's citizens. F.W.P., B.L.M. and many landowners are doing a good job of keeping lands open for quality hunting. Many hunters must learn to respect private & public lands for good hunting to continue in Montana.

Private land access is my major concern! Will the landowners continue to allow access with the continual increase in teh hunting populations.

I do not believe they can stand much more pressure, interuption, and plain disregard by many hunters who do little more than buy a tag and expect the landowner to supply the animals.

I belive that the most important issue is the restriction of access to public property by private landowners. I strongly favor purchase of access rights and prime habitat to increase game populations and hunting opportunities, and would be willing to pay much higher fees for these purposes. Virtually everyone I talk to feel the same way.

I would like to see easier public land access in district 411, which is mainly Forest Service land.

Areas should be clearly defined, foot only, or wide open except for retreival, no preference to horse hunters, tougher regulation of outfitters, segregation of pay hunters, from real hunters -

pay hunters not allowed on public land, since the reverse is already in effect.

Access to state & Fed lands needs to be improved greatly also those ranchs and farms that get some kind of Fed or State help should allow hunting of some kind by Tax Payers.

Too much of our State & Fed land is blocked for public use, by land owner and outfitter who purchase access rights for their personal use.

The problem of over grazing domestic animals, on elk deer, & antelope land, should be watched more carefully and restricted as necessary.

Restrict the harvest of spike bull's during both rifle & bow season to help the maturing process. Did not receive questionnaire until March 11, 1988 sent to wrong city. Feel it unfair not to be included in drawing.

Question 14 on Page 4 & 5 on page 5 do not cover someone like myself. I have a hard earned cabin on Dalton Mt. (293) where I hunt. Looking at 10 yrs. of work and money and then close to 200.00 Taxes and another 200.00 + insurance, this is hunting experience to me. One more comment: With only 2 plus acres, but dam expencive, I don't think land owner preferanse goes far enough.

The only problem I ran into with archery hunting is that private land owners seem to think that most animals that get stuck get away and die because the hunter cannot track them.

The permit situation on the C.M.R. Breaks out of Malta should be looked into. I hunted in only 622 last for 2 weekends. The roads got muddy so we couldn't make it down there. If we could hunt any district that we wanted to, instead of only one, I could of went to 621 where the roads were gravelled and maybe could of seen some elk. Also in 622 it's getting harder and harder to find areas to hunt. Two different people that own quite a majority of the land are closing it to the public. They are going to make "game ranges" out of this small area and not let any of us "average" hunters hunt. They are going to get rich people to pay a lot of money to shoot trophy bull. I think this should also be brought up some where.

Archery hunting in Montana basiculy is not all that bad. So much depends upon the weather and the Rut that you really have no control. - The one big problem is the number of Montanas elk that is controlled by private land owners or lack of access to some of the public lands.

Allow access to all public land and state land.
Stop payment of damage money to those who charge a fee to hunt their land.

I understand the need for access laws. But they can be abused. It seems to me that if an outfitter buys land bordering public land and denies access except to those who use their services, it becomes a matter of who owns the elk not who owns the land. And that shouldn't be the case. We still need to work on access laws.

Some agreement has to be reached with land owners for the non-guided hunter (local hunter). The closure of land to "locals" in favor of the paying outfitted hunter is restricting my enjoyment. Thank you.

Access is our #1 problem with ranchers locking us off public lands & then leasing their ranch and in effect giving the outfitter sole access to much public land. Bridger Mts. etc (393 - C?)

I recommend that archers be able to purchase "b tags" for antelope archery hunting if they don't draw a tag in general antelope drawing.

Extra revenue would be realized - there are so few antelope killed by archery there is reason to allow any archer to hunt antelope in any district. I have ranchers bugging us to hunt/kill antelope near Billings but am unsuccessful in "drawing" 500 antelope tags. Can't afford time & effort to drive & hunt eastern districts when excellent hunting is 5 miles from my home/

I have a big problem with the many ranchers & farmers who do not let you hunt their land. Then, when winter hits hard, the big populations of big game start tearing into the hay stacks. Then, they go crying back to Fish & Game. I feel if the ranchers want to deal with the problem at the beginning of hunting season (ie not letting hunters hunt) then they should take responsibility to control the problem in mid winter - staying within legal rights. Thank you.

I think that F&G resources should be applied to ensuring that the public has access to public land and that fee hunting doesn't become so overwhelming that young and poor people can't afford to hunt - through the procurement of land and landowner incentives.

I think if there going to transplant elk in the Murphy Lake area 101. They should close the area for at least three years. Last year was a disgrace. The land owners closed thier land to hunting. and shoot the elk themselves. I know at least 16 of 38 were killed.

that game animals belong to Montana(ns) & should have wintering grounds plus no fee hunting. I believe law enforcement is needed to keep section lines & other roads open to hunters. I believe our legislatures do not represent but pass buck.

Pay hunting is a slap in the face to Montana Sportsmen.

Need more places to hunt without having to drive to Wyoming.

I feel the Fish & Game Department has sold to many deer licenses in Eastern Montana in the past years. Depleted a well distributed deer population for monetary gain. Ranches & extremely rough country have kept this problem down in spots by not allowing hunting which is not what we want but is needed if the fish & game continue to sell outrageous numbers of licenses. They sold up to 5 permits a person. People slaughtered whole herds of deer destroyed some populations. And not in problem areas. I have a small ranch and in order to keep deer I have to run hunters off. This would not be so necessary if there were good populations of deer elsewhere. This year hunters were shooting deer (does or whatever) wherever they seen them. This will cause more Farmer Rancher, - hunter, Fish & Game Problems.

We need more access to public land.

More access should be made available to public lands, which are surrounded by private lands. I also think that all cow tags should go to the resident first. If any are left then they could go to the out of state hunter.

The most important area of concern for my elk hunting is access to public land.

I do not care to hunt on private land and absolutely will refuse to pay access fees, to private or public.

I would like to see tag law changed from land owners to block access from hunters going to BLM or state land. or being able to charge for that access.

PS This is a very good questionar you should do this every year and also for gun season hunters also.

I feel the biggest problem, we have as hunters, both archery & rifle is access to forest lands. I hope that the problem can be curtailed in the near future. I know it is very hard for your dept. to control harvest of animals under these conditions but keep up the good work.

As a whole, the hunter is on your side.

I would like to see access through private ground to public hunting areas.

Ranches leasing public ground for cattle feed should be required to let hunters on this ground when cattle would not be endangered.

I am really unhappy that a few seem to be able to lock up access to public lands for all kinds of recreation.

I am in favor of more logging it provides more big game feed.

The thing that bothers me most about hunting is that Farm & Landowners are getting greedy. They can't seem to make a honest living so they want the Government & the hunter to bail them out of trouble by charging to hunt on there private ground.

Access to Public Lands through Private lands needs to be improved. Private land owners/leasees are posting Public lands in a effort to restrict access.

For all Hunting to Remain a sport, Bow-Rifle, it doesn't matter Hunting must not become a Industry For groups or Individuals to make money.

Fee Hunting will take the Meaning out of Hunting.

Get more BLM Land in Montana. Also let us hunt on private property without permission.

Get the access opened up to the BLM and state lands that we the public pay for and cannot use.

I will not pay to hunt private land. If a land owner does not allow hunting Free, the Fish, Wildlife & Parks should not reimburse the land owner for the damage to game does to the owner's land. In addition, The Fish... has given out to many non-resident permits, causing the land owners to lease out their land to Outfitters who close the land to residents. This is becoming a very bad issue among antelope hunters in the 700 units. Consideration to changing the amount of Tags given to non-residents should be a priority.

We hunted in area 622, and couldn't get to alot of CMR land because privet landowners wouldn't let you cross there land, It seems like there should be some kind of trail or access to this CMR land.

I think that to many farmers and ranchers charge. I don't think this is right.

I would like for this state to make it law for landowners to give access to public ground.

If a landowner uses public grazing we should be able to use his private ground to hunt. We the hunter are loosing our right to public ground. We need your help Fish Wildlife & Parks.

It would be nice - when land is posted with its o.k to hunt sings with permission that on these signs there would also be information on how to get in contact with the land owner. phone number or address. Its hard to ask if you con't find out who owns the land.

How about using part of the archery stamp money to reimburse ranchers for letting archers hunt?

Each time an archer kills big game on private land, the archer gives the landowner a "stamp" off his license. Then the landowner turns in the stamp to the F,W & P, and gets reimbursed. I am feeling much pressure from the landowner where I hunt to "push" this program.

I also believe in it. What else does the landowner stand to gain? ____ nothing!

* Problems with archery Hunting in some areas require archery special permits CMR area (622) (631) * Also in order for archers to get into a good hunting area - most landowners require an access fee - becoming a problem?

We live Central Montana, and there is alot of Public land that is blocked off by private land. I would like to see the state and federal agencies provide some access to this land. Thank you

Landowner cooperation to let people hunt is really dropping at an alarming rate. I also hunt with a rifle & it is really getting hard to even find a place to hunt. Thank you very much for sending me this survey.

I feel that the activity of logging grazing and amount of 4x4 on and off road travel had a considerable effect on the local elk activity, keeping them hiding out on private land and inaccessible public land due to private land location.

I don't believe in paying predation Ranchers who sell access or put up trespass signs should not be paid for Wildlife damage.

I would like to have a Deer tag come with the archery stamp, or use all the money to buy access to private land.
or trailhead's

Hunting rite leases should be outlawed!

The number of domestic cows should be reduce, to allow for larger Elk populations on Federal & State lands.

The largest complaint I can possibly think of is the ever increasing closing of public land, both state & federal, by ranchers & farmers who are using such lands themselves for commercialization. Wildlife is not meant for the private use of any one individual.

I believe that any landowner the hollors about game damage and wants funds for compensation but does not allow people in to hunt, all support of state funds should be cut off and no assistance be given.

I also believe landowners that stop access to Federal and State

lands and then wants access fees should be stopped.

The either or hunting of rifle to archery is a bad thing to get started. It will not stop poor hunters from being in the field, and there is no biological reason for it. It just denies hunting opportunities and gives the Anti-hunting community something to use to stop hunting.

It will also start a lot of problems between the purist archery hunter and the hunter who likes to hunt in both seasons.

The main thing that needs to be changed is the access to public land. At fort peck the road to public lands are being closed or a fee put on them so everybody is being forced into one small area.

Need way to tell private land from public land - Twice last year was on public land but told by man (unknown) in truck this was his land. Have seen orange posts on public land (painted by hunters I think -)

Some of my frinds are getting locked out of hunting spots they hunted in for years. this is not the American way when are you people going to do something for your money?

I also got a gate locked in my hunting area. that my dad has hunted for 40 year and I have hunted for 30 years, but I have horses and we ride around the ___ ranchers land now. What are my friends going to do? I feel the hunting area I go to every year is a part of me, I don't kill elk every year I just go to be at my old stomping ground.

Why do you let the rancher's and farmer think they own the ground they leased? The people of Montana do.

This year was dry and I noticed there still was heavy grazing on upper forrest service ranges which brought the elk down to private land early. I don't believe in paying fees to hunt public lands or private and money spent should not influence game management laws. You put restrictions on picketing horses but cattle graze any where.

the biggest comment is about land access, Bob Lombardi and Siv Siedensticker have closed access to forest and BLM ground so that you can't hunt that ground without going all day to get on this ground. they turned it into a private hunting facility.

Thanks for asking for our input.

I got lucky early this year usually Archery provides many more quality hours (you can't shoot it just cause you see it.

1) Charge me more if we can help keep access to public land - see Bull Mountain closure.

2) Charge ranchers full cost of range management to land (public) that we cannt access. & charge them less (or nothing) if they give a little & allow us access!!

3) Close more old logging roads to raise Elk Security, Gun

hunters can surround many areas

4) Let's stop shooting spikes to increase trophy quality.

5) Let us know what we can do to help land owners - thanks for many great seasons

I don't think fee hunting or access fees should have been legalized. I have always been under the impression it was illegal to sell game and as far as I am concerned that is exactly what is going on. If the wild game was not on private property then I don't think people would pay to hunt or walk or what ever on private property.

I am opposed to private ranchers being able to have control of wild game animals and disperse permits because if a disease got started in the game they wouldn't take care of it like FWP personnel would. There are some areas that are over populated with deer simply because they don't get harvested like they should. That very thing happened on the Yellowstone. I was born and raised on a ranch and understand these problems. We didn't have as much trouble with access until they put the money part in.

Make more state lands available for hunters.

To put a stop to land owners and Outfitters that put signs of No Trespassing etc. on public access roads and lands.
Also more information on this matter.

Area 260 should stay open, not be closed in between big game season

More should be done for handicapped hunters and elderly. Area 260 needs more access.

I feel that the Game Commission work in favor of archers over Rifle Hunters. This I do not like. Also I do not believe in Guides getting set aside licenses for any kind of hunting. It is unconstitutional and against civil rights! Hope fully it will change before a real problem arises.

I also feel state land is public! And that when a farmer or rancher leases said land he should not be able to keep the public out during hunting season and if he does his lease should be taken away from him.

I wish there was a way to get more access to river bottoms.

The ranchers complain about deer population but very few allow us on their properties.

I think the fish & game should purchase hunting rights to really good elk hunting areas, so the average Bowhunter will be able to hunt, when the wealthier hunters buy up more & more land & hunting rights. I would certainly pay more to hunt, if the proceeds were to go to elk management.

Although I've bowhunted a number of years (only 2 yrs. in Mt), I've never bagged an animal with a bow. I just enjoy going for the reasons listed in #1, part III I'd hate to see restrictions on seasons, limits, either/or hunting with a rifle, etc unless absolutely necessary as in Oregon. I've hunted for 27 years & feel access & landowner relations are worse each year. I'd like to see more public access to the public lands & hope your fee raise for land acquisition & improvement addresses this need.

I feel that since Archery hunting in Montana has no significant effect on game, it should be left as is. I do not think raising fees for Archery Hunting to purchase Access is a good idea. However I strongly urge thinking in regards to Auctioning a 2nd sheep tag a moose - goat and one grizzly license for funds to obtain access through private lands to public lands for all sportsmen. Sincerely yours; Member of Bitteroot Sportsman's Landowners Committee. Member of Ravalli County Wildlife Assn. Representative Montana Muzzleloaders.

Public lands that are inside private lands should have an access for public use. If not, the private landowner should not be allowed to use, lease, charge monies, for hunting on such lands. Pay hunting should not include these lands. If the public can't use public land, then no body should.

My biggest concern with hunting in general is the competition I experienced with hunters on horses. I would like to see districts set aside only for hikers such as myself without horses or a system where districts would alternate between allowing hikers only and hikers and horse hunters. Access is of big concern to me. If landowners continue to lock off land lawsuits will ensue and the landowners will have access forced on them simply because people won't compromise and settle these problems. Thank you.

hunting access should be made better for archery hunters in private areas such as the Sun River Area. And Squarbutte, & High woods. Its difficult obtaining permission. Hunters should be fined to the limit for using 4x4 terrain runners or quad runners, 3 wheelers.

I think to many private land owners are trying to make to much money on hunting seasons, were not getting a good harvest, where ground is posted too mutch game is getting killed by automobiles, not enough public access to public grounds & BLM ground, any body whom charges to tresspass on their ground to get to forest ground, should give you a recat. & be taxed on it just like my wages are taxed, to make anything work we all have to work together.

I think it would be nice to have some kind of a tag the hunter could give a land owner after a kill that the land owner could

turn in after the season is over he could get 2-3 or 4 dollars for each animal that is killed on his land.

I wouldn't mind paying that extra money for a licence, so the land owner could by fencing materials, to fix fences elk have toren down.

Thanks for sending me this survey it gives me a chance to cast my opinion.

I feel that we should have more access to private land or they should be charged a recreational tax on their land ther are not enough lands open for hunters, and lands that are open are closed of by surrounding private lands.

Access through private lands to get on state lands to hunt.

I hope that surveys like this are not used to further the confusion already available. I hope that access to public lands is improved. Also I believe that grazing rites on game ranges should be offerred to landowners that allow public hunting.

Montana is unlike any other state this is our unique quality, we have the ability to set the standard not follow along, Just because others have done it.

The Biggest problem to all hunters, archery or gun is access to public & state lands, being denied access by thin strips of private lands 100-300 yds wide. and lands public, that are taxed on us, & land tied up by outfitters.

I would like to see more deer available, and then allow an A tag (buck or doe) and a B tag (doe), as once was. I was very disapointed in the way our over population of deer was handled. Handing out 5 and more tags where before you were allowed only an A tag (over the counter).

I like the archery season just like it is but I would also like to see less out-of-state hunter and more open privite land for hunters in both seasons And I would like to see less land owners selling hunting rights to out-of-staters and restricting it to locals - thank you

Hunter access is becoming much to restricted and difficult to obtain. BLM land and public land must be identified much more specifically and the boundaries and access roads be shown. References to these boundaries and access points should be easy to obtain by the hunters.

I believe one of the biggest problems with Montana recreation is the lack of access to our public lands. Private land owners should not be the only ones to use the public lands they ajoin. ie. for instance the crazy mountain range is a prime example!

instead of trying to buy more wildlife land I think you should

try to get better access to public land

where I have seen elk, rancher will not let you hunt without fee or they save it for their friends to hunt. Will not give permission. I've got permission where theres no game.

In our area we are restricted to one district (622). This was okay and now there is a big herd or elk on this land for out of staters to hunt and the rest of us deal with what is left. (not much) We should be able to hunt 2 districts so we have some place to hunt until the out of staters move the elk off of one guys land.

Reference Item #8e page 3

Increase fees by \$2.00 donated by the state for use in land owner, recreation hunter promotion for better relations.

We need to improve relations between hunters and landowners. Several good areas are closed to hunters. Also, numerous tags for antelope and deer should be stopped. A family with 15-20 tags is crazy. How about a late season hunt for unsuccessful drawing applicants? 2 tags per species per hunter is plenty. A late hunt would not crowd the general season with hunters. Lets give everyone who wants to hunt a chance.

I'am starting to get discouraged about access to public lands. I feel if private landowners lease any government land they should be required to provide reasonable access to public lands. The governments help landowners with very very reasonable lease prices, land owners ought to give something in return.

Not enough attention is paid to the local hunters interests. Dept of F.W.P. tends to cater to out of state money, Most residents have to work for a living here; there by limiting available hunting time. (weekends). limiting access also limits opportunity - due to available time. It would be helpful if dept. could compile & make available lists of land owners agreeable with bowhunting.

I think more public access is important due to the increase of all hunting. I also think that area 560 & 520 should become a branch antlered elk area although it should remain open for cows during archery season.

I am stationed here in the Air Force and found all land owners I asked were more than willing to let me hunt big game if I followed their few basic rules. Archery hunting allowed me to expand my time in the field prior to rifle season and become thoroughly familiar with the area. It is a much more challenging hunt during weather my compact car can negotiate the dirt roads.

Montana is getting to much Pay land, we pay taxes to help improve

ower hunting and the land owners are getting payed by out of staters and hunting clubs to only let them hunt.

Miners obtain a small portion of road and block off thousands of acres. Ranchers get nearly free grazing on public land and ruin streambanks and winter range. I feel fee hunting on private land should be illegal. Rich out of staters are buying game that the ranchers have no right to sell. The game should belong to the people.

Land access very difficult would like to see incentive program for land owners. - and a better maps to public lands. and access to them - stop horse access - or hunting from horse-archery & guns unfair advantage.

It's not right that we can't get to the public land that is behind private property.

I would like to see the state give hunters Archers & Rifle the right to hunt on leased land

I don't feel archer's need more expense and regulations by the Dept. If the Dept. is truly interested in improving archery and hunting in general, obtain access for sportsman onto public lands we've already been taxed for.

I'm unhappy with the access closer's in many districts. 360 Jack Creek Drainage road was closed off about 2 miles short of where it used to go. 333 much of the Boulder river drainage is closed off, or the roads that used to get you up on top are closed, not to mention the logging that has scared the elk back further so it gives the outfitters a better chance and the public less opportunity as in the Plum Creek lumber company.

I am definitely satisfied with the population and size of the game in the areas that I hunt but, I am disappointed in private landowners cutting off public land. Mainly access roads and in general their attitude to the general public. I would like the purchase of more land to hunt on.

It is very difficult to decipher who owns the land and who to ask for permission from the orange paint on a fence post, telephone post, old tire, etc.

I feel that having to pay fee's to landowners for hunting is not fair. Because most landowners do not own the wildlife on there land!

The biggest problem hunters in Montana face in the future will be access to private land, lets get together & put a stop to irresponsible hunting practices before this sport gets to expensive to be in.

Hunting with a bow in Mt. is much more pleasant than rifle hunting. As a landowner, I have noticed a real decline in respect of private property. This problem is almost 100% during big game rifle season. Using a bow gives me time to enjoy hunting the way it should be and spend rifle season watching my cows, fences, gates and picking up garbage.

The restricted access to public lands in this area is the largest problem with archery hunting. This results in more hunting pressure in those accessible areas, fewer large bull elk, more skittish deer, and less isolation (and satisfaction) while hunting. Bugeling in another hunter isn't a good hunt!

I'm a little frustrated with finding property to hunt on. I don't like being limited to certain areas. I have great respect for property and wish farmers would let us work with them in stopping problem people instead of locking us all out.

I have a BIG problem with the way outfitters use BLM land thats not available to the average hunter. Also, have problem with attitude of outfitters concerning out of state hunter permits.

The archery is a great opportunity to get out. Exept, for land owners not letting people on the land to hunt.

I favor closing to all hunting those private properties that restrict the use of state lands or require the payment of a fee for access to hunt. Even those who only allow only foot traffic. Or increase the state land by 1000% for lease.

I feel that something should be done about the stock farm. And I don't mean that you make people pay to hunt it, that really sucks! People shouldn't have to pay to hunt their own elk so sombody else can make a buck.

Would like the local fish and game offices to provide a list of ranchers who will let me hunt on their place. Because most of the time where I want to hunt is not by their house and I do not know where to find it to ask for permission.

The question about private land. Any rancher that a hunter has to pay to hunt or no hunting allowed. They should not be allowed to graze cattle on forest service land or BLM land. And all cattle should be out of the mountians before sept.6 the starting of hunting season.

I am only 15 butt I feel that elk hunting is challenging butt as for private ground in area 204 owned by Ernei Boullen is too great and should be lessened, because all the elk move on his property, butt otherwise it is in its prime for elk hunting.

Continue and expand the program of access to public lands, such as the state lands.

All public lands should be open to hunters and access available. If people with grazing leases do not agree with this the lease should be withdrawn. Archery hunting has been some of the most enjoyable time I have spent in a field.

I think that something needs to be done about land owners charging money for hunting privileges and then complaining to the F&G about destruction of crop land due to the number of game.

I'd like to see the wilderness issues settled and some resolve with the access problems. There also seems to be some problems with the biologist making recommendations without proper study or statistics to back them up.

I don't have a horse so hunting in areas near my home is difficult (for elk) even with a rifle.

I also feel that the land owners do a poor job of controlling the hunting on their properties.

You need more control of hunters on ATV's and also outfitters. You need better contact with the land owners. I don't think a person should have trouble finding places to hunt on, or should have to pay to hunt in his own state.

I would like to see more cooperation from the ranchers concerning deer hunting along the Bitterroot river.

I think some type of campaign should be initiated to induce better hunter-land owner relations in order to establish a more consistent hunter/deer ratio.

I'd like to see better hunter-land owner relations developed to break down "No hunting or trespassing" signs.

I'd like to have rights to land made illegal so all people can hunt the land everywhere.

I would like to see the department work with landowners to permit bow hunting on private land where elk present a problem later in the season (if they use the area year round). Often the same ranchers that complain of damage by elk and deer are ones that do not allow access to hunters. Maybe a certification of some kind by the Fish and Game that let the landowner know you were a competent archer.

Hunters should be allowed to hunt on state grazing lease.

Or at least be allowed to have access to land beyond it.

I think that an additional fee on top of the license fee for big game habitat is the best idea anyone has had yet. I also think that paying a fee to get on land in our area is getting out of hand.

Off the archery subject. Perhaps rifle elk permits could be given by drawing to a particular area issue enough permits that most people receive them, but in this way elk harvest could be more controlled.

The only complain I have about hunting in general in Montana is the decline of public lands and the increasing amount of outfitters and hunting clubs on private lands. I think landowners and outfitters feel they own the big game animals that belong to everyone. I would like to see more public access and less pay hunts. So the average hunter in Montana can still afford to hunt. I think the only answer to that (in my opinion) is more public lands. I would not mind paying more for license fees if more public access was purchased with the extra money. Thank you for letting me take part in this survey. I hope it helps!

Feel that there is a lot of overgrazing in forest service properties by private ranches-should make it mandatory-if private ranches graze stock on public land then they should attempt to let hunters hunt their property or allow access across their land to forest service or other public properties.

they should be "no" kill permits for rancher no matter how big his problems might be. The rancher cries about elk eating his hay. But will he let the hunter hunt during season "no".

It is my opinion that owners wanting a fee to let hunters on their land or access through their land is or should be illegal. It is not their game to sell and they are the first ones to complain about crop loss. If this is legal land should be taxed as commercial property as they have turned this into a business-Tax free! Also, I license fee's go up and up the fish & Game will cut their own throats as many other depts. in the state.

I feel that district 380 has no public access to public lands on Boulder Hill and I'd like to see something done.

In my opinion the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has subjugated the interests of the Montana sportsman to the guides and outfitters. If the guides and outfitters are going to lease all the private hunting land in the state, they should not be allowed to guide on public land, either federal or state.

The Fish and Game Dept. should be fighting to gain access to

state lands and federal lands for sportsmen. Nearly all private land was originally granted to individuals by the federal government. There should be some right of access to those lands by private individuals. The fish and game department should be fighting to gain that access for sportsmen.

Instead of continually playing politics the Department should be trying to do what is best for the sportsman.

I have plenty more to say, given the opportunity.

The two main problems with archery are the same as rifle hunting: 1) Access to and across private property and 2) fewer mature bull elk in the herd population.

I believe license fees could be increased significantly to purchase additional hunting lands and access points. The cost of the license is nothing compared to a \$200-\$300 bow, or a \$4.00 hunting arrow.

I am fervently opposed to your bow drawing as an incentive to return the questionnaire, very poor!

Many elk have been moving down to private ranches where they are not accessible. I'm tired of hearing complaints from ranchers about the damage done by elk, antelope & deer. It's too bad they don't allow free hunting for these hayburners anymore.

I for one will never spend a dime to hunt any animal on private land. I am able to find friendly landowners and lots of game on public lands-the problem for many gun hunters is you have to walk off the road to find the big elk and deer- yes they have gotten wiser.

As I have said, private cattle on the public lands I hunt in the Big Belt Mountains have ruined a least 6 stalks I have had on elk- why can't the ranchers be required to remove their cattle BEFORE the season starts. Also am having trouble with some land owners who deny access to their land because of serious problems with the area game warden. I would like to speak with someone from FWP about this warden problem. Thank you. Dave Hamm, 456 Fawn, Billings, MT 59102. 406-656-4514.

I believe the biggest problem in archery hunting is the landowner, bowhunter relationship. For some reason it has become very antagonistic. I would like to see some solution or suggestions before it becomes irreversible.

I in the past two yrs. have tried to hunt on private property and have had a real hard time getting permission. If I can hunt, they charge a person which I don't think is fair to me or the Fish and Game. They say if I don't pay them to hunt they will

get deer damage commisions from the fish and game dept. which really is us, the sprotsmans money in the first place. So, in any case, I have to pay to hunt. Hunting is turning into a rich man's sport. Thus, federal land is getting over hunted. Making the outdoors like a shopping mall. Bow hunting gets me back towhere I can enjoy the wild as it is in nature!

I am a new resident of Montana and haven't been able to find anyone willing to let me hunt on private property.

Montana is becoming a "pay hunting state" ie. you pay private land owners to hunt ont he land!! This is dead wrong! We apy for wildlife management for our future enjoyment only to see large private land owners making in \$ off of the labor of "Fish, Wildlife and Parks" and the hunters \$. That is spent to improve the environment.

Hunting should be like fishing. i.e. As the fish are in the streams for everyone - access is provide. So shall it be for hunting- if there are elk on some land owners ranch- hunters should be allowed to access the animals!

I believe that the larger ranches that charge for access to or through their land should not be ehlped out be FW&P or the state when their ahy gets destroyed by wildlife.

Interesting questionairre. I wish it had come a year or two earlier. This last year I backed off from archery hunting in favor of black powder somewhat. I still think bow huntingin MT is pretty much OK except for the lackof public access! Too many places being closed or charged too much for because of "slob" hunters! I also think the state should allow access to state lands and not let lessees ahve exclusive rights to bar public access for recreation purposes when it does not interfere w/ what their lease is for. Thank goodness we have so many National forests in Montana!

I don't think ranchers are being charge enough to run their cows on my land. If ranchers feed on their land its \$25.00/head per month, If on my land the pay \$.35/head per month.

The major change needed in archery hunting is to lessen the guide preference. The little guy who pays a lot of the bills is being priced out of hunting areas. I am concerned about access to private and public lands.

I feel that right now archery hunting is as good as it has ever been. I also feel that everybody has the right to hunt and that by raising fee's or making people choose whicvh way to hunt or hunting by drawing or selective area's only is not fair to us Montana taxpayers. I also feel that the only major problem with hunting in Montana right now is the fact that land owners and

leasers seem to think the game on said property is theirs to make money with. Basically they are selling the game in my opinion. If you really want to improve hunting I think you should concentrate on landowner policy.

I feel any elk should be a legal elk for a bow hunter. I also believe one of the biggest problems is private blockage of public property and oppose "trespass fees".

I would like to see more areas open on private land and less land use fees. I feel the sportsman is paying the rancher for game he does not own.

We need some program to encourage land owners to open the lands to archers during archery season. Most landowners in my favorite area allow only very few people on their land despite the fact they own large tracts of land.

Was wondering if there might be a way to get ranchers names who might welcome good honest willing to walk bow-hunters. Maybe a listing of elk over populated problem areas. There must be a few out there who don't want to charge to get access. I'd sure like a chance to show some rancher that there still are some of us who respect them and their land and property and really appreciate the access and permission when given. Just had to write these frustrations down on paper.

My greatest concern is for access to hunt public lands. Especially where public lands are leased, and the leaseholder either locks out the public and in some cases charges the public to hunt on land we the people own. Republican rep. Bob Marks is doing just that! I for one feel this is wrong, and needs to be addressed by the legislature but if representative marks is doing this what chance do we have of seeing any laws changed. Perhaps we will need some new faces in the legislature.

I personally think Mont. fish and game needs to work with the public/citizens and the farmer/rancher to get people opportunity to hunt these properties so that big game are pushed on to public properties a select few just put pressure on, another problem in the areas I hunted was public lands were over grazed by livestock, it was so dry and the growing season is short in the mtns. where most public access is that this also forces big game to the low lands which are mostly private. A lot of people live off game as winter food and if a person does that instead of trophy hunt, you can't afford to fee hunt! I feel hunting big game in Montana, I was born and raised here, is a birthright. Thank you.

I feel that the fish and game dept should try to solve the problem on lease hunting because at some time there will only

be rich people hunting the others won't be able to afford the exence.

Don't shoot unless positive of a kill. Follow all wounded animals. Paying fees to landowners is BS and if they complain of crop or range damage tell them where to go. If land owner does not want vehicles walk in only that's great. Intelligent hunters turn in vandals because a few cost us hunting rights.

Any land owner that charges money to hunt. Should not be given any favors. Like late hunts, fences around hay stacks. There are people looking for land to hunt on and willing to follow the land owner rules but will not pay for game that does not belong to the rancher.

Hunter access to BLM land and other public areas is becoming much too restricted. I believe that the right for one to reach these areas should be publicized and enforced. Land owners aren't aware that they must leave these areas accessible or just refuse to.

Access to public lands is a critical problem. Also, overcommercialization of all hunting-too many outfitters with their dudes-is denting resident and nonresident hunters who do not hire outfitters many hunting opportunities-

I am against pay to hunt. I pay high taxes and licensing fees. I am careful and courteous and care about landowners property. I also feel that landowners should receive special permits applicable to their property without drawing-if they can hunt they should let other people hunt.

I feel that 1g. percentages of bulls are staying on private land and unless the sportsman is willing to pay the hunting experience is going to fall to the control of those willing to pay. I feel fortunate to have harvested 10 elk on federal land in the last ten yrs. with the way things are going (hunting pressure) It is only going to be harder to enjoy the hunting experience. I feel that buying winter range and possible ranches for public access is one solution. I want my children to enjoy hunting as I have.

When people are allowed to block roads leading to CMR land-someone is not doing their job. In Garfield county people are charging to cross their land to get to CMR. Is hunting in Montana coming to a (rich mans game)? Maybe the state should charge the out-of states 5-10 thousand for bull elk as the private ranches do and put that money into gaining access to the lands we own.

Try and drive from Jordan or Sand Springs to Squaw Creek and see what happens. \$100 per day per person isn't bad if you're rich. What does and dense fees go to, can't be gain access through these ranches are to be all have to buy boats and spend 1/2 days

traveling to hunting grounds by water. I don't feel you have to worry about the elk in 700 the ranchers manage them for you, unless you are a rich out of stater.

Just the comment on land owners who restrict hunters but receive compensation for damages because of too many animals.

I think we need more access to public land and private. If the land owner doesn't allow genral hunting then their should be no aid from fish and game when elk and deer are a menace.

Generally speaking, access is a prime concern for all big game hunting. The final result can only be to create a hunting climate available to the most affluent. The bottom line is focusing on the "bucks" generated. Not far down the road, hunting will be reserved to these affluent people and will disappear for the average person. The affluent will pay any price. So, fees continue to climb. While access is less of a problem for the archer, the dollar signs are taking over here too.

The problem isn't with the game or the hunters. We need to work on landowner/hunter relations. We have special archer hunts we can't use because of landowners are closing their lands to use, so public land is over populated with hunters.

I am not an expert on game mgmt- but i have hunted in Montana for the past 10 yrs-I do know I see fewer animals now and even fewer bucks-I also knwo that gaming access is becoming more difficult-We hunt for a place to hunt and very often have to pay-some landowners whine about too many deer and then make you pay for the privilege to hunt them.

Private access seems predicated on personal greed! Politely asking and being granted access has little interrelationship. I can count on one hand the number of times I have been allowed access through or on private land which locks up state/federal lands. I think the time is long over-due to point out the farm subsidy connection versus hunting and leases of public land to farmers.

the one thing I don't enjoy. about hunting. is that most of the good hunting is on private land, and most people charge 20-50 dollars a day just to walk on their land, and even more if you get something. It's becoming a rich mans sport.

OPEN MORE PUBLIC ACCESS!!

There are lands that aren't accessable to hunters witch should be open to hunting. We need access to these ares to reduce pressure on the areas we can now hunt. Private land owners are stopping people from getting to Forest Service or BLM land we need this

straightened out for the benefit of every one.

Elk Hunting: I feel that the quality of a hunt is degraded proportionately by the increase of hunters in the area. Even though it would be an additional cost or inconvenience. I strongly favor decreasing public access (not eliminating it). I would prefer paying an access fee to a private landowner or required to use an extra day to pack in/out instead of competing with too many hunters.

I don't think paying to get on private land is a thing to be pushed as it has in the past few years. We need to keep the state or public land we have open!

I think that if the landowner wants to charge and nobody hunts on his land. Then during winter he wants to get rid of problem game he should pay the fish wildlife and parks to have a late hunt.

This is the first full year I hunted by bow - I saw elk a no. of times but never had a shot except at a spike in a nospike area - I found landowners very cooperative more so than in rifle season - when nice weather elk are very high so as in rifle don't see as often but have enjoyed just being out I never saw an over abundance of game hunters - I could have shot at a number of deer but didn't care too as they are either doe or small buck: - maybe next year

TO DECREASE PRESSURE & CONFLICTS WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS THE STATE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO OPEN REASONABLE ACCESS TO ALL PUBLIC LANDS. LICENSE MONEY SHOULD BE USED TO PURCHASE ACCESS ACROSS KEY PRIVATE LANDS THAT BLOCK ACCESS TO LARGE PUBLIC TRACTS. ALSO STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF HUNTING ON LEASED PUBLIC GRAZING LANDS, POSSIBLY REDUCED GRAZING FEES ON LEASED LANDS THAT ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO HUNTING. MAJOR ACCESS ROADS SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES FOR RETRIEVAL OF DOWNED GAME. POSSIBLY A DESIGNATED OFFICE WHERE A KEY COULD BE CHECKED OUT. (ONLY FOR RETRIEVAL)

As stated in part III, I can't afford horses, guides, and etc. A lot of the US forest land is also locked up. I'd like to see a lot more of the forest land opened up for access to vehicles, for access. Access to public lands should be increased.

I think the dept. should work on hunter/landowner relations. More & more landowners are leasing land out, thus pushing the public closer & closer together. The number of hunters are never going to decrease, but if we can increase the acreage for which they can hunt, they won't be so cramped. (I realize this would only be a short time solution for the ever increasing number of hunters. THAT IS THE #1 PROBLEM, TOO MANY HUNTERS!

I wish there was a way to access private lands, for that

sometimes is the only way to access much game! Warm weather was definately a factor this season why harvest was down. Should you have extended the season to bring harvest to normal!

I feel the Fish & Game must further their efforts to help in the landowner sportsman dispute over big game animals.

I also feel the only way to limit the amateur hunter is to make the seasons either Bow or Rifle. This would also help in the areas where the Bulls won't answer. Limiting hunters to one or the other would decrease the number of Bowhunters by 50% thus the quality of the Bowhunter would be higher and more sportsman like.

I always camp out and I feel its important that we have places to camp and park vehicles and keep livestock. All it costs me is my gas & licenses this way because I have to eat wheather I am home or hunting. Once again I must stress the importance of landowner subsidies by the Fish & Game to allow parking & foot hunting on private land. This can be done easier by the Fish & Game through licensing than by we hunters ourselves. I am a landowner and I allow access. Providing the hunters are responsible people.

I feel very strongly about access being restricted to public lands by private owners and leasers. I also feel land owners who charge for hunting should forfeit all state funds for game management. I also feel 2,3,4 wheeled cycles should be totally banned from federal lands during hunting seasons (off road use of these vehicles does more damage to game that the total of all archery hunters?)

I think certain rights are being violated by landowners when they can totally close off public ground form the public and use it for their own use.

I don't feel that landowners have the right to charge hunters and then cry to the fiah & game dept. to allow them to destroy game because the game is eating their crops

I would like to see a mandatory check in of all animals within 24hrs. after reaching public roads it would give you a better count and reduce the amount of poaching. Also I would like to see more access to public land that is cut off by private land bordering it. These people hunt public land and don't provide access to anyone else. therefore having a whole mountain to themselves (Ex.) West side of Bitterroot from LoLo cr. to Tin cup cr. at Darby.

It seems that the greatest drawback to good hunting (in the last 20yrs.) is the private individual buying up small parcels of land. They then close off all land behind their property whether they own the backcountry or not.

We need more archery only areas and easier access.

expanded turkey hunting.

We need better relations between landowners and bow hunters.

I would like to see the Dept. acquire more access to public hunting lands. I would like to see more land swaps with ranchers in order to put bigger blocks of public land together and get rid of the checker board private and public lands that can't be used by the general public.

I do not favor the Archery only season. I find more & more private land is closed to hunting because of land being leased to private hunts. Fee hunting needs to be stopped

I would like to see better access to private lands, improved and increased amounts of state owned / controlled habitat. Need to improve the size of herds, possibly by drastically reduced seasons in 3-4 areas per year, rotating each year. Change damage hunt procedure and stop state aid to landowners who do not allow non-fee general hunting. I would consider the ok of crossbow use on a very limited basis for amputees on similar severe handicaps.

87 WAS A TOUGH YEAR BECAUSE IT WAS SO HOT. I FELT MY BUGLING ACTIVITY WASN'T A GOOD BECAUSE MUCH OF THE RUTTING ACTIVITY WAS TAKING PLACE AT NIGHT. IN GENERAL I THINK THE F,W & P IS DOING A REAL GOOD JOB MANAGING THE GAME & THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA. I FEEL THAT LEASE HUNTING WILL REALLY HURT MT. IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. WE MUST INCREASE LICENSE FEES & PUT THIS MONEY TOWARD ACQUISITION, LEASING & EASEMENTS. I FEEL THIS WILL BE THE ONLY HOPE FOR DECREASING HUNTING PRESSURE ON PUBLIC LAND WITHOUT BECOMING TOO RESTRICTIVE. HUNTING LICENSES ARE THE BEST RECREATIONAL DEAL THERE IS TODAY. IT'S LIKE PAYING 10 CENTS TO GO SEE A MOVIE!

access road leading to public lands should not be closed off by private enterprises

16. BUGLING, RUT AND BREEDING PERIOD.

I would like to see an earlier opening and closing date to the archery season. Specifically Sept. 1 - 31st. This would cause less interference with the actual breeding in elk.

I think that the first couple of weeks that bulls are mating they should be left alone period. This only makes sense, as it is the time they are most vulnerable and they should be allowed to fertilize the cows.

Elk season could be limited to 2 or 3 weeks at the peak of the rut.

I was not able to hunt like I wanted to do to heart surgery but I did enjoy getting out and I did manage to bugle in a couple of bulls. Glad I didn't get one this year as it was too warm. P.S. I know the weather isn't your fault.

Bow and arrow success is very low. To kill a bull elk is not an easy task. Our hunting group covers alot of miles in a day just to hear elk bugle. If you do anything move rifle season up one more week. This year on opening morning of rifle season the elk were still bugeling. Elk that are bugeling during rifle season don't stand much of a chance, if a hunter knows how to call one in.

In the past few years I have noticed the bull elk have changed some of their habits. It seems they bugle less and are more wary during the day and more active at night.

It is my opinion that archery and rifle hunting sessions should not intesect the breeding sessions of deers, elk, or antelope. This one step would increase the quality of hunting by allow the more genetically sound animals to breed. Also lesson open does and cows and increase the quality of animal hunters.

You cann't expect a crop of mature hoofed - horner - animals when they are hunted during their most volernable period - the rut. Elk season should not start till 2nd week of October. Mule deer season should close middle of November. Most bucks killed after this are found on the city dump anyway.

It was great when I started bow hunting in 1953. you could hunt any place. No body else was seen except those in the party and we got some game. You could get an elk whistle from blowing on a 30-30 empty case. We never lost any cripples. Maybe we were better woods-men, could follow a track and blood. One professional camp here in Broadwater Co. lost 7 bull elk in one season. With all the hazzel and land-owner complaint against bow hunting - I've about gave it up.

An avid archer of 13 years, I've had ample time to closely evaluate talk patterns during the rut. Many things will effect the rut; weather, temp., drought. Most importantly though, has been the disproportionate numbers of archers using the bugle. As we all know elk are a very adaptable species and the pattern developing is an in bred ability. To distinguish the bugle, the only remedy, as I see it, is to eliminate unnecessary hunting pressure by allowing archery/or rifle only.

Very important to have archery hunting during bugle season.

I would like to see a one week added to archery season, because of the elk bugeling. It would increase the number of kills of elk.

My main concern is the use of bugles to bring in the trophies - these being the most dominant animals. The dominate animals have an important job to do in Montana - to reproduce the strongest possible young. These are the animals the guides bring hunters to with artificial calls causing less dominate males to do the breeding.

Sorry I'm late I have been out of town. I still hope this information can be usefull.

I feel each year areas should be allowed to be closed in order for a normal rut to occur. This should be seriously considered in areas of low cow-calf ratios.

I feel as though the Bow season should be shorten by at least 2 week, because the main rut does not last the hole bow season.

The increased pressure from outfitters & dudes have change bugling patterns; elk have an increase their bugling at night & decrease during daylight hours; also, there are too many people who buy a bow & never practice with it - they don't realize that taking a shot at 50 or 60 yds. is next to impossible to kill an elk or deer. Increased education in the sport is essential.

In many ways bugling bow hunters have become too efficient - I don't think such pressure should be put on breeding males during active rut - As a land owner I wish bow hunters shoot cows only!

I really like to hunt bull elk with a bow but I also think that mature bull elk are at there greatest disadvantage during the rut therefor I would agree to closing some areas to bow hunting.

The season the bulls aren't bugling is because of the preasure from poaching. Bulls in the future will completely stop bugling. If the poaching was stopped the hunting would improve 100%. Either their aren't enough Game Wardens or they just don't care. If there isn't enough money to stop poaching. Take it out of all

the money that comes from that area. I think that if the money comes out of a certain area it should be used in That Area! Districts in 700 areas don't get any money that they deserve. Vary little fishing or camp sites - grounds. Carter & Fallon County don't even have a two game wardens. I never seen a game warden or went threw a cheack station all year long.

Archery season as it is disrups the Elk herd to the extend that fewer calfs & more dry cows are seen each year.

Would you expect a rancher to allow his bulls to be harassed at breeding time?

I saw no calf elk in 87. I walked many a mi. in the mts. my friends also have commented on the few elk calfs.

I think that deer hunting during the rut should be limited to primitive means. It is too easy to kill a buck with a modern rifle during that time of year.

I think the archery season should remain the same length because sometimes Elk bugle early & other times later in the season.

Bowhunting for deer is real good in Mt. I feel baiting for bears should be legal in non-grizzly areas. Can licorice be used to attract bears as a scent or is this considered baiting? Elk hunting bowhunters need to be spread out and limited in elk districts. I feel either sex any animal should be the rule. Spikes are easier game during bugling but still very challenging with bow. For 16 days of intense elk hunting I only heard 1 bugle in mid-Sept. I was in an area with several bulls because I saw these different animals from a distance. Several hunters however, all bugling. Its literally impossible to get a bull with a bow when they are not bugling. By limiting archers in elk hunting districts I feel the elk would bugle more and increase bowhunter's success rates. Thanks.

I feel there are too many archery hunters at present. Too many wiunded bulls are lost during the rut. The change I would like to see is shorten archery season or change the time besides the rut Hunt when there is tracking snow. or reduce archery hunter members for elk.

There are hunting districts in the state that allow early hunting with a rifle. To allow a hunter to shoot at a bugling bull with a rifle is not right. It is archery season and most archery hunters don't or won't hunt in these districts.

I hope that no mangment actions are decided by what is asked in question #8. The questions and answers seem to be very vague.

I really think the bow hunting season oucld be shorten so the elk have alittle more time to breed unhassled. But on the whole I think bow hunters help to wise the elk up. But I sure haven't heard much bugling in the last few years. I wonder, if the big

bulls are all gone or just quite bugling?

Bugling bull elk is my main reason for archery hunting. Whether I shoot an elk with a bow dosen't really matter. Just being out and seeing elk and hearing them bugle is reward enough.

I would like to see more Archery only districts during the rutting period. I would also like to have a late archery season after rifle season is over.

The archery season is definatly to long.. I feel that opening on one week end and closing the following Sun. is plenty of time to disrupt the elk in this very c? time of breeding. There are just to many animals killed and or wounded on this long of season. I would appreciate you consideration on this matter Thank-you.

I feel the elk archery season affects the elk breading in heavily hunted areas in Montana. Aslo killing off the prime breeding stock (the big bulls) doesn't seem to be the proper way to increase a herds size & health.

I wonder over the years if shooting the more vocal bulls won't reduce their numbers by altering the gene pool and making the "quiet bulls" the primary breeders.

Archers are supposed to be a skilled primitive weapon hunter instead they drive the Roads & Disturb the Elk During the mating season when the Elk should be left alone. I don't feel a Early season by Archery or Rifle Benefits Big Game populations.

I think Archery hunting is a challenging and exciting sport. Last year, my dad and I hunted about 12 days altogether with a bow, of those days we saw a few cows and calves but we passed them up hoping to find a bull. It was about the last day and Finally we had a bull answer us. We bugled to him for about 20 minutes but we never got close enough to see him. It was a great experience to hear him talking to us and it was worth it even if we didn't see or get a shot at him.

I have noticed a significant decrease in the number of elk bugling in the last 10 years. I feel this decrease is due to the number of archers bugling elk.

I would like to see the season shortened some to give the elk a better opportunity to breed without hunting pressure and harassment from over bugling.

I would like to see a management program to increase the mule deer buck to doe ratio in section 421 which I believe is bery poor. I would also like to see rifle season closed during the rut to allow the larger bucks to service a higher percentage of the does.

You people have to do something about this bugling of these big bulls, it's r? screwing up the game population. And over all I think it is going to hurt the size of the elk with these young bulls breeding these cows. It is no damn different than raising cattle on a ranch you don't get good calves from a bull until he is 4 or 5 yrs old Thanks for giving me the opportunity to answer.

Reduce bow permits, increase rifle permits for the health of elk herd in CMR. Elk are stressed during breeding and quality of hunt is reduced because of too many hunters.

I feel people should be taught more about bugling in Elk and the effect bugling has on elk.

The hunting seasons now for myself are long enough so I can hunt weekends and work during the week and since the weather plays a big part in the rut it gives me a few weekends to get maybe just one day when both are right.

I've talked to as many as three bull in this one day. No shots, but this one day is worth all the others.

Too many big bulls get wounded during the rut. I've talked to a lot of good bow hunters who have lost big bulls. The weather's too nice and warm. Meat spoils and tracking wounded game is very difficult. Bow hunting in the snow would be much better.

The reasons for having a late archery season to me out way the reason for having it before general season. In the last 5 years the amount of bugling bulls has decreased significantly in the areas I hunt. The bulls are there but, they don't bugle. This has to affect their rut. Also the loss of animals, due to spoilage because of warm weather and hit and lost because of lack of tracking snow is increased during an early season such as Montana's.

People are out archery hunting but they are not serious about it. They bugle from there truck that they just slammed the door on. Elk are not stupid. They catch on quick. I know this is a free country, but they sure make it tough for the rest of us.

On either bow or rifle season I like the idea but would like to know that I would still be able to hunt elk in the rut and also whitetail in rut and late season.

Bow hunting, I do not take too serious. If one hapens to come along I'll shoot it. Its a chance to get out and lsiten to elk. If you find that archers are bothering elk during the rut would you consider changing the archery season to after general season instead. I believe some areas have to many archery hunters and this may bothe the elk rut.

I wouldn't mind if we outlawed bugling to elk. Sometimes I feel this can hurt the rut of our elk. Some hunters consider it (Bugling) dirty pool. I agree. 1987 was not a good year for hunting because of the hot dry weather. Thats the reason I didn't hunt as much. Usually I will bowhunt every weekend.

I feel archery season has a big effect on the mating of our elk herds. The larger bulls are not breeding as the archery pressure has pushed them into seclusion. I am not in favor of road hunting archors either.

These game trackers are mono filament fish line, lot of yards they string otu and lay there! A long time! They will tnagle on anything that walks by, including man.

I have noticed in the past, that the elk bugle depletes to evening, night, or early morn, with hunting preasure. The more pressure the more depletion.

I think bow season could be easaly shortened 1 week. At this time the bugle is shy (At Ft. Peck) However many elk are still in rut (possible 2nd esterus). I think elk need this week for better calf crop ratio.

I feel strongly that the opportunity to hunt with botha bow and a rifle in split season should be maintained. Archery during the bugling season. The kill ratio is low and it doesn't appear to affect the breeding process as the increasing herds indicate. Hunting with a rifle should not be allowed during the bugling season.

I am concerned that all the bow hunters in the field, could this be interferring with elk breeding, especially with all the people bugling.

The fish and game has said they feel the last 2 weeks of rifle season is tough on the ibgger bull elk, I feel that they are more vulnerable during the peak of the rut, perhaps a split season, give them a break.

Bow hunting should be for deer and elk only during regular season with rifle hunters. Let the bulls alone during breeding season.

Bull elk are too vulnerable during the rut. Elk archery season should be moved to after general season. From the hunting stories I hear. 2 elk are stuck with arrows and never found for every one that is taken. Almost always big bulls. I say leave the bulls alone during the rut. Too many people will take that small chance of hitting a trophy bull that is 60 or 70 yards away and end up hitting it all right, in the guts or --- and it runs off.

Season should be open one week later, so that elk would not be pushed so hard during main rut.

I feel bowhunting has gone up but the elk rut is a lot of the reason. I feel the hunter should have to pass an accuracy test before receiving stamp (no license sold after opening day).

I would like to see our archery season become a primitive weapons season, allowing the use of long bows, cross bows, and muzzle loading rifles. I would also like to see the season date changed to follow the general big game season. This would allow the elk breeding season to go on uninterrupted, ensuring larger calf crops. The snow at this time of year would help the hunter track wounded game resulting in less lost game.

By allowing the use of primitive weapons during the general big game season and then having a primitive weapons season after the general season I feel that this would insure a fairness to all sportsmen.

I feel that the major reasons for the bull/cow ratio decline in region 1 is due to wounding bulls during the archery season and losing them and due to bulls shot during the rut, and due to the large take of bulls taken by rifle hunters in the last week of the season.

I feel the number of hunters bugling in an area is affecting the breeding cycle of these elk in the areas of high hunter concentration, making the mature bulls less likely to be bugled in. So... I feel the bugling by these "yahoos" helps to wise-up and extend the lives of some elk. Good for the elk but making the wilderness hunt lacking in some of its qualities.

I would like to see some type of elk management area where archery only hunting is allowed on a drawing only basis, similar to the CM Russell management area for rifle hunting.

I've noticed that elk in rut are in areas that usually bothered by traffic noise and all terrain vehicles. Areas that I previously hunted too have had new roads built in or near that area have pushed elk into areas further away or have caused them to be more 'leary' of man. Many areas that once used to be easy to bugle in bulls and cows have since become treasured many more hunters. It now takes more time to scout and patients in order to get a shot at game.

In regards to the elk season alternatives now being discussed. I would like to see archery season shortened toward the end so as to allow the bulls better time to insure a full mating. I fear that some cows are not being mated. I think that a longer time between archery and rifle season might insure a better or more complete mating season. Closing some areas will only divert pressure to other areas. I see more scattered, small groups of elk (cows) and not a sign of bulls or bull for great distances.

In general I feel that Bull elk are less vocal (bugle) than 10 years ago. Sign indicates they are there, however, so many bowhunters are now bugling that the elk have become more wary. Too many hunters (not sportsmen) don't take the time to practice but still go out during the archery season. I would favor an either or season whereby one chooses his weapon. However, since I also enjoy hunting whitetail during the Rut I would like to hunt them in November with a bow as well.

An archery competency testing program would be difficult to administer, however, it would improve the quality of the bowhunter in the woods by weeding out those who are not reasonably serious. Recommendations for Elk hunting season (1988) by FW & P personnel in Region 1 this January was a step in the right direction. I may not agree with their recommendations or the data used to make them, but at least it shows some real activity & concern for managing our Elk.

it is a shame to bother elk during breeding. Those who take 6 point or better should pay \$100.00 trophy. Roads should be closed to archers same as those closed to rifle hunters. (state should not give away our hunting to out-of staters and rich through the outfitters.)

Once again - Elk should be breeding - not being chased by hunters when their breeding

In the last 7 or 8 years I have seen more & more hunters on my outings. The area's where the Bull's were responsive to bugling

have changed. The bulls are still there but seem to shy from bugling

I feel that archery hunting is putting entirely too much pressure on the Bull population during a vulnerable time. This causes people to not be able to see or hear bulls because with pressure game gets smart. I see alot of sign for bulls even during rifle season but very seldom do I see them anymore even though there are more now than ever.

I want to see all of the seasons not to start until 2 weeks after next year. It would give the bulls a better chance to get the rut over with. thats how all the bulls are getting killed.

I think when whover planted the elk in the Murphy lake area they weren't thinking right. Those elk got sloutered out there again after the '87' season. NOT TO SMART

Shorten the Bugle season. Branch antler only
purchase licenses prior to opening day
shorten rifle season
limit cow permit to one every three years

Our local elk population is at an all time high but the logging pressure disrupts the rutting elk & makes hunting in general alot harder. The new clear cuts put in where the elk use to rut, live and travel make the elk use steeper tougher less accessable country

I feel archery hunting for elk is a great opportunity for recreation with little impact on the elk; reducing the season or restricting a person to 1 area only reduces that opportunity. Something that is not justified. Elk do bugle less now, but they still bugle a fair amount. Not at 2:00 in the afternoon as they used to. I think hunters are realizing constant bugling is a detriment and less human bugling will occur in the future.

I live and hunt mainly in Unit 250 which is adjacent to Idaho - I feel that the biggest improvement that could be made in elk hunting, both archery & rifle, would be for the Idaho general rifle season to be restricted until later when the bugling season is over. I realize the Montana Dept. of FW & P has no control over this.

Cut off Sep. rifle hunt in Bob Marshall when the Elk are in Rut it is to eazy to git big bulls with a rifle. Thay are gitting to many bulls with a rifle during bow season!

I just moved to Montana this past year, but I have been hunting in adjacent Idaho areas for several years. I have noticed there is lots of good bugling and rutting elk activity in late August. I would like to see the elk archery season open Aug. 21 of each year if possible.

IT SEEMS TO ME THE ELK ARE BUGLING LESS. IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE THEY ARE CAUCIOUS TO ANY BUGLER I THINK THEY ARE GETTING WISE TO THE IMMITATORS.

I think the Elk are bugling less because so many hunters bugle them. Although more hunters may be hunting I see few since I hunt greater distances. All terrain vehicles affect my hunting since it is a noise disturbance that is heard at a great distance, I favor none liberal seasons since I love the outdoors & the increased hunting opportunity. I feel the low success ratio of bowhunters, the natural requirement of the sport to move noiselessly, & the concealed methods. of hunting, offset the length of the season on adversely affecting elk and elk movement. Anyone who has spent weeks bowhunting & then hunted the opening day of rifle season, knows that elk move more during that one opening day than almost the entire bow season. THE BULLS ARE BECOMING SMARTER DURING THE RUT.

17. CHOOSE WEAPONS. EITHER/OR ISSUE WITH REGARDS TO BOW ONLY,
RIFLE ONLY TAGS.

I would like to see some restrictions put on so that non archers such as loggers and other forest users could not just carry a bow with them in case they get a chance to plunk something. My suggestion to help solve this problem would be to have them have to give up something in order to get an archery stamp. For example if a person purchases an archery stamp, then their rifle tags are only valid for the last half of the rifle season. They would be giving up the first half of rifle season for the privilege of bow hunting but would still have the opportunity to get their winter meat if they were unsuccessful during archery season. I feel that a rule such as I just described would be a good compromise between having to totally choose one method or the other and having not to choose.

I understand some of the people on the commission think it would be alright to make hunters choose between rifle or bow season. That is one of the most discriminating things I've heard lately. If anyone wants to spend the time and money to hunt both ways, that should be a hunter privilege. We will oppose such a change very much.

By making hunters choose between hunting with a rifle or gun, I feel that only the serious dedicated archers would opt to hunt with a bow. These are the hunters that will pass up questionable shots and go to all lengths to retrieve a hit animal.

I would also like to see the "spikes only, permit for branch bulls" philosophy extended to other hunting districts that have lots of open country.

You should be allowed to hunt during archery season or rifle season, not both. This would reduce the pressure substantially.

I don't strongly oppose an increase in license fee for archers, but remember archers already pay more than the rifle hunter.

I am alarmed by the direction the fish and game dept. is taking in regard to archery. I spend over 200 hours a summer practicing but if forced to choose between hunting with a bow or a rifle I would very likely never hunt with a bow again. I am sure I would not be alone.

I think that a "single weapon concept" should be started but not for all areas just high pressure areas. Archers put a lot of pressure on bull elk in the Gallatin canyon, it can't continue.

Have had the opportunity to hunt and bugle several large bulls in last 5 yrs. of elk hunting. In general I hunted on national

forest in Highwood mountains. Had hunted private property in Highwoods with rifle and after beginning to hunt with bow have not applied for special permit for elk in that hunting district. I now hunt elk on private land only due to the fact that the vast majority of elk seem to have found havens from hunters on such lands. Would like to see the Highwoods set up for archery only and also to see hunters in Montana choose either rifle or bow. My own personal preference would be to hunt with bow as long as opportunities for special permits such as moose, sheep, goats were made available in exclusive areas also.

I feel that the either or rule will do more harm than good for the sport of archery.

I love to bow hunt because I can go hunting without the problems of running into alot of other hunters as during rifle season. I am not very successful at bow hunting but love sneaking up on wildlife without them knowing I am there. For that reason, I would hate to have it go to a choice of rifle or bow hunting, not both. This would force me to give up a sport I love because I usually end up taking my meat with a rifle.

I hunt with my bow for enjoyment, and mostly as a preseason scouting time for the general big game season. However, it has been the rifle that has filled the freezer 6 out of the last 8 seasons. I will do everything within my power to preserve both opportunities to hunt.

The survey seems to indicate a presumed need for change. This need for change is unknown to me. If in fact there is a requirement for change, I believe that it would be best to require hunters to elect to hunt either by rifle or bow. This would reduce number of archers, increase professionalism in archery and eliminate the archers - rifle hunter advantage in increased season lengths. If my suggestion were carried out the cost for an additional archery stamp should be eliminated. However the election to bow hunt only should not extend to special permit hunting for antelope, goat, sheep, moose. Please note that since 1980 my hunting has been archery only except for 2 antelope hunts and that my success/lack of success in not a important as the quality of the hunt.

My hunting is for enjoyment of the outdoors and also to fill my freezer with meat. If I desire to spend extra time and money on archery I should be able to hunt with a bow and a rifle. Although I've only hunted with a bow for one year, I enjoy bowhunting over rifle hunting. Bow hunting would be my first choice as long as it were during early fall.

I would like to see hunters have to choose between archery and gun by species. I would also like to see more and earlier archery seasons for antelope. Having a hunter education course

and an accuracy test would do much to improve public image by reducing the number of slob hunters.

I strongly feel that in the near future the Fish and Game is going to have to decide to have an "either" "or" system in Montana. I understand it may affect the archery businesses in the state, negatively, but it appears to me we have too many bowhunters flinging long shots at animals without practicing before the season. Many archery hunters are out just because of the nice weather; it extends their hunting season, and for the most part because their buddies are doing it. Other than that, they don't seem to care about anything else, ie (wounding animals, bugling from vehicles from the beginning of August, shooting at animal from the backs of vehicles etc.) I think it is a privelege to live in Montana and have the opportunity to archery hunt. We have a nice season with plenty of big game. I hate to see the sport impaired by the many casual hunters who don't "give a damn". The same holds true in rifle season. But again, if hunters were to choose either rifle season or archery season, I think it would better the all around hunting in Montana.

The archery season is okay as is. I would actively oppose regulation to limit the archer to seasons he can hunt, i.e. no general season. Many areas have too much horse traffic.

I don't think the archery hunter impacts game movement for the general season hunter.

I do not feel that it is right to be limited to either bow or rifle - one or the other. In the western part of the state they have a general elk rifle season - then they can also go bow hunting in our area, those who have money to travel!

The questions about choosing species, hunting with bow or rifle etc. kind of rile me. Thats what limits are for. If a hunter (bow) gets a deer or elk, of course he shouldn't be allowed another during rifle season. Also if the Fish and Game Dept. starts to see game depletion of course they should set the season accordingly. I believe the bottom line is if the experts (Fish and Game #1) feel that any type of season or hunting pressure is hurting the herds well then do something about it. Herd populations have and always will vary from year to year because of many things that we all are well aware of thus we (hunters, campers, photographers etc.) must depend on you to do what is right.

I appreciate the opportunity to have input in this area. I feel that bowhunters have a bad image, especially with rifle hunters. I am strongly in favor of any steps which can be taken to reduce the number of bow hunters who are not equipped or prepared for the sport (those who buy a bow the night before opening day, or

practice 2 or 3 days a year, then brag about the number of animals they hit, but which got away).

I am in favor of choosing rifle vs. archery, if it is by species. I love to bow hunt for elk, but bow hunting for deer holds no appeal for me at all. I would rather hunt deer with a rifle. However, if I had to make the choice, I would hunt with a bow and give up the rifle, as bow hunting for elk is the ultimate challenge for me.

Archery hunting is not for everyone, especially those who aren't totally dedicated to the sport. In my opinion those who only hunt for the extended season and opportunity, without practicing and without regard and respect for the animal (flinging arrows mentalities) should be cleared from the ranks of the truly dedicated archers. For this reason I believe the either/or choice for choosing rifle or bow would significantly improve archery hunting in Montana because: it would effectively reduce numbers of the variety that aren't serious, don't practice and generally contribute highly to bad press and circumstances detrimental to the future of bowhunting. Mandatory bowhunter education is an excellent idea. Increased fees will not inhibit the "slob bowhunters" that I abhor. And most of all, I vehemently oppose reduced bowhunter season length because the bowhunter requires more days in the field. He doesn't reduce the opportunities for the gun hunter in the least under current management. If anything, there should be more "archery only" hunting areas than currently exist. I don't think you'll find anyone in the know who will deny that current archery only areas retain and sustain some of the very best trophy animals. In my opinion it is because archer success is low; the animals get the chance to mature which is not the case in many of the overhunted general hunting districts. I strongly oppose "permit only" archery hunting or restricted season or limited districts by choice!

I think that the number of archery hunters has risen to the level where the quality of the hunt has deteriorated in several ways: more hunters in places I've never seen other hunter before, more wounded game (found an arrow in the 310 bull I killed rifle season) due to long shot "hail Mary's" from new macho archer willing to risk all in hopes of a lucky kill. I've hunted elk for years and have had no kills, however I enjoy seeing the game in an undisturbed setting and have spent a good deal of time chasing bigger bulls. I would probably give up archery hunting in favor of the rifle should an either/or season be adopted, yet the resource is being over pressured in my opinion. With an either/or season more serious archers able to do it right or not at all would be the rule and any negative impact on the herd would be eliminated. Instead of the ABOVE though - a guaranteed drawing every third year or so for the archer like myself could also accomplish much - could hunt both seasons every so often.

Thanks.

1) Limit bowhunters for elk to dedicated bowhunters and lengthen the season for them for at least (Sept. and Oct.) Especially so in the Missouri Breaks. Do this by making the hunter choose bow or rifle hunting only for elk in Montana for that application year. This would eliminate your bowhunter number problem.

2) Do not sell any state or federal lands. We are losing more access to private land each year. The only thing we will have eventually is the public land to hunt.

Since I started bow hunting in Montana the elk hunting has gotten worse and deer hunting better. I used to bow hunt area 410 but quit because of too many hunters and planes spooking my stalks on trophy bulls. I think non-resident hunting should be bow or rifle.

I don't feel that there is a problem with too much pressure in the areas that I archery hunt. However, I feel that in an area such as the Missouri Breaks. There is a great number of archery hunters. They could specify bow or rifle in that area.

In a way I do favor choose your own weapon bow or rifle. When I first started bow hunting I hardly ever seen anybody else then all of a sudden the last three years I've see a lot more people out bow hunting, and fewer elk bugling because everybody trying to bugle them in.

The idea of making Montana (either-or) is important because it would not only enhance archery, but would also benefit rifle because of hunting pressure.

Question 8 was too vague. I would support the option of being able to bow hunt for elk only, if I could still rifle hunt for deer with my son during the general season.

If elk hunting pressure continues to increase, I personally would give up the privilege to hunt with a gun.

If an when we go to either or, I would like to know how many out of state permits would be given. Will it be the same as gun season.

I feel that no one in state needs to have 12 weeks of elk hunting. With the increase in archery popularity that's too much pressure. I also feel there too many unqualified archers in field trying to be opportunistic. I feel a either or season would solve the problem.

I always hear a lot of talk about the lack of mature bulls. By allowing people to hunt with both we have a poaching problem.

All the archers that would go to rifle if made to choose are still hunting and killing elk even after they're fortunate enough to fill archery tag. This 12 week season invites alot of greed.

I feel there is absolutely no reason for an either or - rifle/bow season, either or species hunt or to choose one hunting district!!!

Every other mountain road in the west has been gated for animal habitat. Cut the restrictions, the game is doing just fine!

At this time I don't think archery really has much impact on elk. I have hunted when I have got within 40 yards of the same elk in the same area day after day and they never went very far. In Montana I don't think its crowded enough yet for choose either rifle or archery hunt. I love to archery hunt but I don't usually get an elk with a bow but almost always get one with a rifle. If I was meat hungry with a bow I might take shots that I wouldn'tordinarily take since I always figure, I can get one in rifle season, so why take a chance wounding one with a bow.

In part II, questions 8a, 8b, 8c, I feel hunters should pick either archery or rifle for each species in any district. In part III concerning questions 8, 9, 10, my answer could be taken to mean that I wounded and lost an elk. But in fact I shot once at a bull after my partner had made a lung shot on the same bull. My partner tagged the bull since he had first killing hit on Sept. 19. I then shot and tagged another bull elk on Sept. 26.

I believe archer hitting and losing elk is one problem that we as a group need to change. Non-archery hunters hold this against archery seasons although more elk are wounded during rifle seasons!

I would like to see an either archery or rifle season, not both for one hunter in the same year. Also it should be illegal to buy a license after the beginning of the season. Both of these would keep the serious hunters in the woods and the yahoos out.

Strongly "oppose" any idea that would force archery hunters to choose between rifle or bow. In special seasons. Tags as issued and used if Big Game taken can't be used for rifle anyway!

I believe the most important thing that can be done to improve archery season is to regulate as in question 8.A.

I would only Favor a Forced choice between bow and rifle if absolutely necessary.

I would like to see elk hunting prohibited with a bow. If this cannot be accomplished then the season should be shortened and a hunter should be forced to choose either (Bow or Rifle)

Question: Why are archers "penalized" for hunting with a bow by being required to pay an additional archery fee along with a big game license? Why not sell a "generic" big game license & let the hunter fill it however he chooses; with either a rifle or an arrow? In either the archery or the rifle season?

I feel that in order to increase the prospects for large, branch antlered bulls; trophy elk, we must limit the number of people hunting in any given area. I think that splitting bow and rifle hunters, we will accomplish this end.

*ie. Part II #8e - I'm in favor of increased license fees but why should archers have to buy the Tags, which are essentially rifle licenses, and then have to purchase extra archery stamps? even if we don't hunt with rifles. If this is necessary why don't rifle hunters have to buy a rifle stamps?

*ie. Part II #10 - After opening day there should be a waiting period between purchase of license and effective date, say 3 to 5 days.

Also i.e. Part II #8a - I am in favor of either/or (rifle or archery) hunting but if this were not feasible I think there should be totally separate licenses for archery and rifle hunting (each of which should cost as much or more than the current tags cost). This would allow the archer who also rifle hunts to "choose" archery at first, but if not successful he could purchase a whole new rifle license. This would also be somewhat of a deterrent for rifle hunters who dabble in archery by encouraging them to choose that which they do best. Thanks - I appreciate all your efforts!

I lived in Colorado when they went to either - or Hunting - it was devastating to me archery Hunting does not effect game and the numbers taken do not effect herds. I do believe in one animal per year quota. Montana is 50% bigger than Colorado with aproximatly 20% their population. I moved here for better hunting & fishing. Drastic measures and changes should not be needed for a long time. Just sound management.

I am strongly opposed to making bow hunters choose between hunting with a bow or a rifle. We pay extra for the bow license. Hunting success with a bow is negligible.

The game populations in the Glendive area has decreased immensely. Should be more areas that have access by foot only (no horses). Bow hunters should be able to fill tags with bow & rifle if they so desire. Longer elk seasons early & late.

I have only hunted last 3 yrs. w/a bow - There is no way to put rifle hunting in the same catagory, as bow. I would really like

to see Bow or Rifle only seasons. It would be bow all the way for me. Also, I think Mt. Fish & Game are doing a bang up job!

I don't feel a hunter should have to choose to hunt with only Bow - or with only Rifle. I see this question as a step in that direction. Montana is a Big State and offers enough area and Big game variteies to Bow hunt and Rifle hunt to the sportsman who like to do both.

In the areas I hunt there are too many "hunters" 621, 622 623. There are people out there that have no Idea what they are doing Road hunting for elk. Hunt there as just something to do before rifle season starts. They think if they get "Lucky" with a bow in the breaks. Personaly I think there should be a either or season in the breaks areas. If you hunt there with a bow you don't hunt anywhere else. This could be done by simply selling elk tags that are good for bow hunting only in the breaks no where else.

Please do not shorten our season. Look at my numbers - I need all the time I can get. I think the average days needed to harvest an animal - bow vs rifle would support a lengthen season. If you would take the idea of an either/or tag and put it to law, archery hunting in this state would be great. - Examples: pick and choose to hunt elk with a bow or rifle, antelope is done this way now. Hunt your Deer "A" with bow or rifle, Deer "B" - bow or rifle. I think bear is ok the way it stands now. Not only do I think the either/or Tag system would greatly increase the quality of bow season. I feel it would curb the number of bow hunters - or should I say part time bowhunters. We need an either/or choice. I think it should be for Elk, & Deer, similar to antelope now.

There seems to be no biological reason to change the archery season. Until there is, why not leave well enough alone? And, either/or seasons would destroy archery along with all the fine archery clubs and associated businesses.

Most important. There is getting to be too many double Hunters - They should have to choose between bow and gun.

Basically, archers are looking for a quality hunt - Sufficient game animals with limited pressure. Forcing hunters to choose between hunting elk with a rifle or bow will eliminate the not too serious bow hunter. Once they choose archery, have them now pick a district to hunt. Pressure will be controlled this way. I believe this is an easy solution to a potential big problem. It will keep me from hunting the western part of Montana & hopefully keep the western hunters over there. That would be great.

Archery is just {great} the way is stand's. People shouldn't have to pick between archery and regular hunting season. You now it is supposed to be a free country. If that was to happen, it would take away freedoms we are supposed to have. Lots of people have big money in each sport. Mayself I have about \$1500.00 in just my gun and equipment for regular season, then archery about \$1000.00 in bow and equipment. Bussiness's and The Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks would loss lot's of money also.

I think to choose either rifle or bow is the best way to improve archery hunting. But lengthen the season so the archer can hunt all the big game species. Maybe open antelope season in Aug.

I am a serious and dedicated bowhunter of 16 years in Montana. During that time, I have watched my sport & recreation deteriorate due to increasing hunters, equipment advances, grunt tubes, cow calls etc. and a lot of commercial hype - all contrary to the original intent of the sport as a challenging one-on-one encounter between hunter and prey. The sport has been commercialized and popularized to the point of dragging into its ranks those "hunters" with poor ethical standards looking for easy kills from the backs of pick-ups. We don't need this. The time of putting some quality back into the sport is upon us. I believe we should implement an either-or season in Montana, not because archers are biologically damaging the elk resource but, because others have this perception and many of the less serious bowhunters are damaging the sports image. We don't need these people in our sport, and an either-or would weed them out. I don't think we should apply economic concepts of more is better and annual growth is healthy to the sport of bowhunting. Lets put some quality back into it.

We need a either archery or gun license - seperate the two. There are too many people out there using guns and making a farce out of dedicated Bowhunters you need a license strictly for bowhunter. And have better enforcement in the favorite areas.

If you raise archery Fee to \$20.00 I feel we should be able to harvest a big game animal in both rifle & archery. I am very strongly opposed to limiting hunting to either archery or rifle, or to drawings for archery. Frankly, I'm quite happy about archery details as they are now - with no major changes.

It seems to me that maybe this survey is leading to the archery choosing Bow or Gun. I have bow hunted for 18 years and rifle hunted for 25. Although I don't claim to have all the answers, I don't consider myself a rookie either. First of all, you can't hurt (or manage) a game population by bow hunting. Too small of a success percentage. The only thing you will do is loose

another source of revenue by making a two season hunter choose.

Please don't have donflicts between Bow & gun hunting, such as the permit for north side of the Missouri Breaks. (Not being able to put in for gun permits thers).

I'm glad you are giving this survey. I realize in future seasons things might be different from what they are at present. I would like to see very few changes but I think your doing a good job under the circumstances. I sure hope I don't have to choose between rifle & bow or a single district & type of game (to hunt). I feel those choises will take the inner most enjoyment from the archery hunter.

Limit hunter to chose between either hunting Elk with Bow and Arrow or Gun not both!
Stop hunters from riding All-terrain vehicles all over the country hunting off them. (o.k. to retriive downed animals)

I think that you should just keep both hunting seasons around. Hunters should have both rights to Bow-rifle hunt big game. I don't like the idea of just hunting with the Bow or the rifle. I like them both.

Too many inept bowhunters run animals around making it harder for both archers and rifle hunters. "One or the other" would increase hunting quality for all.
Increasing Archery stamps' cost is discriminatory. If anything, the "non serious" rifle hunters should be discouraged. If you're pressed for money - increase tag cost for everybody.

I hunt mostly private land. Im very carful & pass up most shots just because there not perfect. If its not perfect its not for me. I take pride in my hunting. I did get a spt bull during rifle season. Please dont make us make a choice between archery & gun season. I love them both but gunhunting is deffinatly the surest way to get game. I perfer bow & arrow though but we like & use the meat. Please dont make us chose one or the other. Thank you for the chance to voice our opinion & if there are any meetings on this I would like to take part in them.

I hunt archery primarily to get out in the peace & quiet and to observe elk and deer during early season. Whether I kill something is not material. I hunt with a rifle later to kill an animal. I would hate to see you restrict us to archery or rifle but not both.

Hunters should have to apply for all areas for either archery or rifle - not both.

A hunter should have to make his choice of archery, rifle or muzzle loader by special color tag per species D? elk and some

areas for antelope. Muzzle loaders should have a special season. Elk especially need this regulation in specific areas. Area 260 could have archery elk.

I feel that the money the state receives from non-serious bow hunters is the only reason you haven't made into law that we must choose between bow or rifle and not both. It's time to pass such a law and cut down on hunting pressure. I feel it's also time to make it Branch-Antlered only throughout the entire state. Also, cutting down on season lengths would only serve to increase direct pressure on the animals. In my opinion this is definitely not the answer.

You people have a tough job and you do it well. Sometimes it seems you care too much about revenue though so raise out license fees if need be and cut down on out of state hunters and in turn cut down on hunting pressure. Thank you for listening.

Elk hunting for any given year should be either by Bow or Rifle but not both for the entire year. This should be especially true in the Missouri Breaks. This would definitely take care of the over abundance of would-be two season Bowhunters, those Bowhunters that commit to Bow would be less in numbers and could even have a longer season. Quality time bowhunting is the important factor for all dedicated bowhunters.

If I'm given a bow permit for Elk in the Missouri Breaks I'll give up all opportunity to hunt Elk anywhere in the State of Montana for that entire year.

Think the elk season is a good length & like being able to hunt with both bow & rifle as well.

I don't think a hunter should have to make a choice on which way he should hunt. We all have the same opportunity as the other guy.

I would be very concerned to see the big game hunting season in Montana go to a either/or type hunt. Anybody who wants is able to hunt with a bow so the argument that the archers have a advantage by being able to hunt longer is really not valid.

I think it would be wrong to make a resident bowhunter & regular season hunter, to choose between Archery & Rifle season only, although I wouldn't mind hunting Elk in Archery, then Deer and Antelope in regular season.

There are Archery shoots all over the state before the season starts, and I think these would be a good place for the people who wish to hunt, to try their skill. Also the Fish & Game could have a representative to issue licensed to archers that have gotten a score higher than the minimum set by the Fish & Game. Part II #7

I feel that hunters should use a bow or rifle, but not both for

elk. This would mean fewer of Both and this would help the Elk Herd. I think the number of Bow hunters will always be on the increase and this could effect breeding of elk by too many hunters spooking the bulls. They need rest too. Either or hunting should be confined to elk only! There are enough Deer to hunt both ways.

I am concerned that the increase in elk archery hunter might lead to shortened seasons or permits by drawing in some areas. I would strongly support an (either or), season for elk.

Please don't limit us bowhunters to hunt only with either a bow or rifle. I hunt with a bow for enjoyment primarily not only to harvest an animal. It is much more sportsmanlike and the animal

I am strongly in favor of having an archery or rifle season only law, and not both. Most people who archery hunt know only enough to bother animals, and other hunters.

I like to use bow season for trophy hunting and if I don't get anything I can fill the freezer during gun season. If I had to choose between a bow or a gun it would put alot more pressure on my hunting.

I feel overall the archery seasons and game populations are fine as they are right now. I am very much opposed to having to make a choice of hunting with rifle or bow. I love and put up with low wages in Montana to take advantage of it's outdoor opportunities. If our seasons and opportunities are going to be shortened and put in drawings and in short taken away I will probably leave. It seems that politics and nonresidents are starting to control what we live here for. Thanks for the opportunity to speak out.

I am against "either or" hunting. I enjoy hunting with bow & rifle & would like to keep it status quo. I would like to see a game management that would allow more branch antler elk available. I would also like to see several areas managed for big bucks, even if hunting in these areas is by special permit only.

I just love hunt with bow or rife, I never took a Elk with my Bow or even release on one. I love the challenge and it feels good. I have taken all my elk with a rife. I feel if I have to choose between bow or rifle it is unfair.

Please send my the servey for rifle & bow kills.

I feel if a person wants to hunt with both raise up the tags and incease the opportunity. Just two many Elk or taken with Bow over Rifle. The Big Harvest is with rifle that is where the threat is. Most big bulls are taken with heavy snow fall and they come down. Close down 1 week or 10 days of rifle season. Kalispell hunter Born & Raised.

I think that road close are more important to pressure on game. The part I wouldn't like to see is the fact that I would have to choose (bow or gun) because 1. I like bow hunting better 2. I don't have to shoot take bad shots. 3. I have time to watch the game and learn more about them without the pressure of shooting! thanks!

I am violently opposed to having to choose between Bowhunting and Rifle hunting. I feel that Lack of Public Access is a mounting threat to big game hunting in Montana. Buck to Doe Ratios seem to be very low, A lot of Deer but Relatively few bucks.

I hope we will not be faced with the choice of just archery or rifle hunting. The State & F.W.P. makes good revenue on archery hunters with little impact on game populations. P.S. You should have an envelope that Fits your questionare.

I strongly feel a choice of rifle or archery should be made. If you want go out in both take photographs in one, and hunt the other!

I feel that an iether or Season, Archery or gun, is certanty in the near future. However I would like to postpone it as long as possible. Thank-you for Your time.

I would like to see the hunters have to choose between bow or Rifle. But they could hunt deer with a Rifle and elk with a bow or visa versa

Have bow hunted deer in other states -- 1st time for elk=this yr. Been hunting here 3 yrs and see no problem w/crowding during archery season, hence am confused with question II.8. Most bow hunters I've ever met do not bow-hunt during rifle season, even though they are required to buy the same tags as gun hunters, plus archery stamps. I favor having separate tags for rifle and archery, by species.

I wish only to bowhunt elk, and rifle hunt deer. The way it is set up now, I would be eligible to hunt all season for elk and deer. If I'm rifle hunting deer and a bull elk comes by, I'd be more likely to shoot it since I have the elk tag anyway. If the elk tag was only good for archery, I'd have to let him pass.

To reduce archery hunting pressure, I believe the best way is an either/or policy - seeII-8a. Raising the cost to \$20 is insignificant in trying to eliminate the non-serious hunter; hunters who start practicing with their equipment 2 weeks before the season are a real problem - I know many of them! To many!!

I am definitely against having sportsmen decide whether to hunt only during archery season or rifle season (as in Colorado)

This was my first season for archery, and I enjoyed it tremendously. But as a beginner, I still feel the need for other sportsmen to be able to hunt during archery a rifle. If Montana had this restriction, I may not have taken up the sport of archery.

Would strongly support an Either/or Archery-Gun hunting season if prime Elk hunting areas were set aside for Archery Hunting only from September to December. I feel this would greatly Decrease the number of Archery hunters and increase Big Game populations that would benifit all Hunters.

I think the Idea of hunting with bow or with rifle is very good. I don't think you should get to hunt in both seasons. Would make for better Bow hunting!

I would like to see people have to decide between rifle & bow to cut down on non-serious archers whom lower the hunting quality for serious archers. To many people use bow season just as an excuse to increase there hunting days afield knowing they can pick up there rifle in a few weeks and hunt.

Please don't shorten the season, require either gun or archery or allow cross bows.

I would strongly support an effort to make archery an alternative to gun hunting rather than let people hunt during both season. A lot of archers a simply taking up the sport to lengthen the hunting season. The result in a very large increase in archery hunters over the last ten years.

Over the years I have seen a increase in bow hunters. But I hope and pray it has not come down to a choice of archery or guns or archery drawing. There are still lots of game if you want to work for them. Archery hunting is hard at it's best and there's few who want to spend the time and sweat to enjoy it's challenge. Others just _____!!

Because of other conflicts I archery hunted very little in 1987. Although I have seen relatively unsuccessful in killing elk in the past I enjoy archery hunting more than rifle hunting but would choose rifle hunting if I had to make a choice. Archery hunting has very little impact on the total harvest of elk in my hunting districts and I oppose any restictions as a reduciton of a recreational opportunity.

in Missouri River Breaks Districts a hunter should not have to choose between archery & rifle hunting - should be able to do both.

This was only my second year of Bowhunting, but I really enjoy it. I've had fair success on elk with a rifle, and I've yet to

even shoot at an elk with the bow yet. But I still enjoy it more. That's why I'd like to see no major changes in regulations, except restricting hunters to either Bow-Hunt or rifle hunt. If you did this, I think any overcrowding, rifle season infringement, etc., would take care of itself. Also, I'd be willing to pay a little extra for an archery stamp if you used the money for purchase & maintenance of habitat. But if archers money is being used for this purpose, then the areas' purchased and maintained should be open to archers to hunt. Some (such as Blacktail game Management areas) aren't. I'd like to see part of the money used toward law enforcement during rifle season myself.

I would not oppose choosing to hunt by either rifle or by archery if the choice could be made by type of game. For example, hunt elk only with bow, hunt deer only with rifle. I enjoy both types of hunting and would not lide to be forced to give either one up entirely.

Archery and rifle hunters shouldn't have to choose one or the other. Area 410 or any of the other hunting district should not be put into permit hunting only.

I believe archery hunters are now having a significant impact on game. I also believe that allowing both archery & rifle hunting by hunters results in violations - i.e. - killing game in both seasons. I strongly favor a law restricting hunters to either bow or rifle.

I would bow hunt more if either/or weapon - I think - it is tough to give up rifle - limited time, available for hunting-job & children- but might be worth it even though I have shot a six point & spike with rifle the last two years. But once I bugled three bulls in one morning and saw a total of 18 bulls in 4 days- more exciting than seeing that many hunters in a day during rifle season. I am eager to participate in any survey

I don't want to see it changed to wither rifle or Bow and arrow I feel that is taking away privelegas were earned by supporting the State of Mont. I feel we would also loose money by doing that (Thank you)

I think we should be able to shoot a deer with our bows and with our guns The same with elk to. We could get a lisencc for both.

I feel if the hunters had to hunt either rifle or bow but not both you could get rid of the non-serious bow hunters.

I sincerely hope that the current regulations governing archery hunting to not change much except perhaps to increase the license fee. It is a challenging sport with a low probability of success, and with small impact on the wildlife resource. I would

not want to give up my right to archery hunt just because I choose also to rifle hunt, or vice-versa. I would be happy to answer more questions, if you wish.

Would hate to see a rifle or bow option it would not be fair to the hunters who enjoy both.

They ought to close more roads. To many road hunters in Western Mt. Give the game a place to go without alot of pressure.

I hunt with both rifle & bow and don't feel there should be limitations put on my preference. If you look at the overall archery success, it doesn't have that much impact on game population. I hunt for enjoyment and not just to kill.

I do not want the passing of only bow hunting and not rifle hunting....

Favor designating one B tag in area 260 as either sex whitetail. Strongly oppose the "Either or" proposition and any other action designed to limit bowhunting opportunities.

I strongly feel hunters has to choose either archery season or rifle season but not both - I myself hunt both, however:!! The only problem is with just bow or rifle season, is, there won't be any archery stores left because it will cut down on many Bow hunters. You guys and Gals are doing a great job in out Hunting and Fishing. Thanks, keepup the good work

Archery season is just fine the more F.W.P. modifies the season the more limitations the true bow hunter will have.

I hope Bob Jensen has a little more concern and open mind about archers and control our out of state people, also never cut our season or go either or hunting. Thank you!!

This survey seems to suggest something is wrong with the archery season yet nothing is defined as such. Each year more hunters begin archery hunting. I would favor an election of archery/rifle hunting as a way of limiting the number of archers, if this did not run over to moose, sheep, goat, etc. I hunted this year for days without hearing anything but other hunters but when I went to an area where there were many elk, the elk bugled as they always had.

If it comes to choosing between rifle or bow, then I hope they divide the species as elk versus deer. I enjoy elk hunting with bow but don't hunt deer at all with bow but do with rifle.

I hope that we in Montana can do what question 8 letter a refers to. I believe it would do away with all the slob Bow hunters we have in this state And give those of us who take Archery seriously better hunting / I spend to much money and time to have

someone tell me bowhunting cripples to many animals - just because of the way the slob-2 season-Mont-hunt!

I have been hunting with a rifle in Montana for 18 years and have enjoyed it immensely - but the bow hunting experience is much more like we used to hunt, I think it needs to be protected and kept that way. The either or season would cut down on the # of hunters significantly.

I would like to people hunt with either Bow or rifle by species. For example - hunt elk with a bow and hunt deer with a rifle. I think that a person shouldn't have to choose between a bow and rifle for both elk and deer.

I think that limiting hunting to archery or rifle would be a mistake, especially financial for FW&P. I do think that we as archers should be required to take a special archery course and show PROFICIENCY before being licensed.

I like archery the way it is. if it was changed to where you could only hunt archery or rifle, I would give up archery.

Did not hunt in 87 with bow -
Dont approve of not being able to hunt w/bow & or rifle.

Part II Questions 8 part D&E

I don't feel the cost of licence is as important as the fact that part goes to habitat and access. ie \$18 and \$2 for a \$20.00 license.

I feel a hunter should have to choose his weapon before hunting season but not the area he wants to hunt. A person should be able to hunt in any area a job or trip or whatever takes him to.

Open access to lands! Either bow or gun not both!

Can't stress enough how important I feel hunters should chose to hunt with either gun or bow (not both) mainly ELK but all hunts would be fine.

Too many people in Montana hunt with both gun & bow. Please don't penalize them.

Please don't shorten our season either.

My first priority in bow hunting is to hunt in secluded low pressure areas where I can at least view some animals. Trophy racks and large game populations are secondary to the enjoyment and solitude not found in the rifle season. Keep the extended season, but don't require hunters to choose only rifle or bow season options.

I feel the archery season is just fine the way it is now.

The archery season as it stands is preferable to any of the changes you have listed. I am strongly opposed to the idea of limiting a hunter to either using a bow or a rifle exclusively. I enjoy both season very much because each offers a unique challenge.

I particularly oppose the proposal that hunter not be allowed to hunt by archery and by rifle in the same year. A regulation like this would most certainly result in many more unsportsmanlike archery shots being taken by hunters pressured to "score" their game meat before archery season ends. I know that I personally am much more relaxed about archery hunting since I know that I can always hunt later with a rifle if necessary.

I am disturbed by this survey because I fear what I conceive to be the politics behind it: to push for an either of season. This has no biological basis - so why take away the hunting opportunity from those of us who like to hunt with both bow & rifle. I have a 10 year old son, and DAMMIT, I'd like for him to be able to do it both ways a couple of years down the road. There are other ways to decrease numbers of archers and increase the quality of the hunt such as Item 8d. Please be innovative. Please send me the results of this survey. Thank you.

Cost of archery stamp could be increased if the money was used to provide more access to public lands - with more access there's less hunting pressure.

Strongly oppose hunting with either gun or bow, limited species a person can hunt, and hunting district - What's the purpose of this since there is no problem with hunting concentration by bowhunters and the amount of game taken by bow seems slight.

*Every archer should receive a copy of this survey's results - especially to those that completed the survey. I am sure you have a system to determine who answers each survey since we are all eligible to win a prize. Please let us know the results.

I don't want archery season to turn into another rifle season. I think people should choose which hunt they want archery or rifle. Serious archery season and for go rifle season.

I think that the Archery season is just right and nothing should be changed.

The questions in #8 part II are absurd, why should a hunter have to choose between rifle or bow. I get a great amount of enjoyment out of Both plus the fact I only hunt Elk with Bow so why should I not be able to hunt deer w/rifle

- Real screwed up way of thinking -

hunters should choose their wepon and hunt that season only. shorten archery 2 weeks. to get quality bulls you must quit killing spikes and young branch antlered bulls. Area 240, 250,

270 should be 4 points or better for branch antlered bulls, take a few more cows.

All Districts should be open to Archery. Any sex should be legal. I personally do not like a branch antler system any bull or buck should be legal to kill. I am opposed to hunting either a bow or riffle each year. Wheater you archery hunt or rifle hunt or even both, is what makes hunting in Montana special. I personally like the challenge archery offers. If not successful with the season, I like the chance to put away the Bow and pick up the rifle for rifle season. If everyone can buy archery tags & rifle tags their should be no problem. Archery season should remain in Montana today and future.

We could use more mature animals in area's I hunt, either through restrictive seasons or transplanting to clear up Blood lines. We should not have to pay for access to private land when that owner also posts leased public land. Some states have Primitive weapon seasons, somthing like that may work here. Seasons and area's for - crossbow's, archery, muzzle loader.

I don't think hunters should be limited to what they hunt with/just to what they can harvest. I have friends that buy an archery stamp every year and have never taken anything with a bow, they just like to be in the mountains.

To limit a person who hunts archery and mettalic cartridge both to just one weapon, would be like limiting a person to just Fishing, or Birds, or Big Game. I hunt, Fish, and trap. To me that is PRIME TIME. I would hate to lose any of it.

I feel that an either/or season or some equipment restrictions as regards mechanical devices would greatly reduce the number of non-serious archerys and have very positive effects on numbers and distribution of game (Elk primarily) and greatly enhance the quality of Bowhunting. I hunted and guided in Colorado last year: Normally I would have about 30 days hunting.

I really think hunters should have to choose between a bow or a gun. theres to many hunters packing a bow doing leg work for gun season. most of them are unqualified and a thorn in the side to the true archer.

Really appreciate the opportunity to particate in this survey. I have kept a daily log for past 4 yrs. of archery hunting & base lot of feelings on that log. It appears we (Archers) need to educate/train new bow hunters if the sport is to survive. To many slobos out there now! Strongly believe that "choose your weapon" would help the sport.

I would really hate to see hunters have to choose between rifle hunting and bow hunting. One of the greatest things this state has to offer is its wide range of hunting opportunities.

I would hope that archery hunting in Montana would never become some of the things mentioned on page 3, such as having to choose bow or rifle, or one species or one district. I think that would be a sad day. I think that generally bow and rifle seasons of present offer good opportunity for everyone. Montana is one of the few states with the wide variety of game to hunt without all the restrictions. I'd like to see it stay that way.

I think archery hunting in Montana has been excellent. I think that the only changes that should be considered would be to limit archery hunters to rifle or archery or by drawing. At the present time no changes are necessary!!

no change necessary if any would like to see one hunting season you either hunt bow season or rifle not both.

I would like to be able to shoot an antlered DEER with my Bow & my rifle.

I have hunted in a state that allows only Bow or Gun hunting (New Mexico). Didn't appear to help the game populations or number of kills.

Keep season the way it is or add a late hunt.

If you go to a gun or bow season only then the bow season should be extended. Also look at making more areas bow only.

I think by either rifle or bow, but not both would be great! It would help weed out those of us who aren't avid archers. I've got a lot of reasons for this please call me collect eve 755-1812

I wouldn't like to see either archery or rifle season. I think it would cut down on fish and game revenues, and I don't think the killing of game is as important to me as the hunting or hearing a bull elk bugling on a cool day.

I am not a dedicated archery hunter but I do go sometimes. If it were priced higher I probably wouldn't and definitely not if it was a choice between bow hunting or rifle.

I do not feel the seasons should be limited to either archery or gun, because an archer already pays for the privilege of early hunting with an archery stamp. Dedicated gun hunters pay no additional fees other than the tag fees. Pay raising the stamp fees to \$20 this would be like punishing a hunter because he enjoys the challenge of archery.

The season length should be in no way shortened. It takes time and effort to get within 20-30 yards for a good shot. Unfortunately seeing an animal with a bow and getting it are two different things. As far as the type of bow used it doesn't matter, anybody serious about the sport doesn't take poke and

hope shots and keeps his shots to a practical distance.

I feel that we need to go to gun or archery only. For many people archery season is a no limit road hunt with tags saved for rifle season or provided by other people who have never shot a bow in their life. Everyone who tags an animal should be required to prove that they can at least pull back the bow they claim to have shot it with.

I do not believe that the number of elk killed by archers can have an adverse affect on the overall elk pop. because of the low numbers of elk killed.

I am opposed to having to choose between bow or rifle. I favor Sept. for archery season.

Generally archery hunting by and large hasn't changed all that drastically. As soon as the timber has been cut I see the forest returning to normal baring a few roads. Also if this is a questionair to find support for a (either or) season I can't stree enough the damage this would have on both sports. Sticks together are tough to break by themselves.

Except for two things I am pretty satisfied with the hunting in MT. I think a person should have to choose bow hunting or rifle hunting. I am also not in favor of road closures. In theory they sound good. In practice they create a private hunting ground for outfitters and people rich enough to own horses.

When do we get one of these for the late season hunt in the Gallatin: Now that I'd really like to respond to.

If a person is good enough to kill big game with a bow then he should not be penalized. He should be able to harvest each species with a bow and rifle.

Both bow and rifle seasons too long. Hunters must choose between bow or rifle.

I think the archery season in Montana is great. I just wish Montana would make a person choose what he or she is going to hunt with. I see so many people who just throw a bow and a few dull arrows in the pickup in case they see something to shoot at. I think by making a person choose the archery season would have a better groups of hunters int he field. I'm not saying that all people who hunt with gun and bow are this way, because I hunt with both myself, but I've saw several people who go out and get a bow, never practice and shoot a lot of arrows at game. This I think is what gives serious archery hunters a bad name. All hunters in the field should be educated in the way they are hunting. I takes hours and hours of pracitce to get good with a bow and arrow. I think if a person could only hunt in archery

season if he or she choose, they would be much more inclined to take it seriously enough to put forth the effort to practice, so as not to wound animals. I used to live in Colorado when they went to an either, or, gun or bow, it helped a bunch there, it also eliminated some pressure in both seasons.

I feel a separate season, non-dependent on rifle season is proper for archers-anyone who can get game with a bow at an extra charge should not be penalized by not being able to hunt the rifle season-as in Minn.-Wis. etc.

Reference question 8: Instead of penalizing the serious archer by raising the archery fee, require total separate license for the general or preferable don't allow people to hunt both seasons ie one or the other.

Basically I'm very happy with archery hunting. My concern is there has been a noticeable increase every year in hunting pressure. I have talked to many of them and I'm not very impressed with the "shot at" stories. I very much believe that an either or season for archery would solve that problem.

There are to many guys out during bow and rifle season that hunt both. I know guys that use a 35 lb. bow for shooting elk and shoot 100 yd shots and shoot at running elk in timber. If you would have only bow or gun and not both you would not have these kind of guys out there. And less pressure.

If the department enacts regulations to restrict hunters to either rifle or bow, I would not mind having a two week special archery season (within the normal archery period) for beginners (novice) archers who would also be allowed to obtain a rifle permit. Also I feel there should be more road closures on public land to provide for elk security and quality hunting.

I have never wounded or lost a bull, but fear many hunters do because of inexperience in shooting ability and tracking ability-maybe hunter education courses should include something on bow hunting to get a stamp, & also on tracking...I fear more elk are lost by rifle and bow hunters who "give up" too early or else feel they missed when in fact they did hit the elk. Big prime elk often do not bleed much because of heavy hair coats.

Also. Branch antler bull hunting only would allow apikes to survive until they are more independent and thus survive longer, thus more big bulls.

I would really hate to see a decision made to make a person choose between rifle and archery hunting-it would really limit my outdoor experience and the variety of fall hunting vs. winter-type hunting.

The only people who will be in favor for an archery or rifle season only will be die hard bow hunters. As it stands a bow and rifle hunter has a 3 month hunting season which is perfect for myself.

Regarding 8 a and b, limit elk hunting to either by rifle or by bow but not both. Allow hunting of other species by either method. 8d. instead of increasing license fee by \$20 make it \$50 or more that would decrease the number of none serious archers.

I feel that a person should choose between bow hunting and rifle hunting. "personally" I think people have to many opportunities at giving game. There can be to much of a good thing.

I think bowhunters should have to take a test on skills. I also feel you should have to choose whether you hunt with a rifle or with a bow for big game.

An "either or " season is OK if archery season is lengthed.

Archery hunter less in numbers and take less game so why charge for a archery stamp, why not a rifle stamp and let the archery hunters pay the flat fee, you would make more \$ money.

I moved here from Washington state, and your archery system is far superior to theirs. I am not in favor of the stratified system or the rifle only, bow only. Thank you.

Get the fly by night bowhunters out of the woods. All they do is spook the game, poach with rifles, and irritate the purest bowhunters. Make us choose between one or the other.

I think the choice of archery or rifle hunting would be good.

I oppose any more restrictions on resident hunters as far as purchasing license.

It will be a sad day when a resident hunter can't go out and buy an elk tag to hunt in his home hunting districts.

With regards to the either or question, no opinion can be made without knowledge of what is proposed. Can you hunt with a bow during rifle season! Would there be post rifle season hunts, for elk and mule deer? (Archery) Could you pick the species to be hunted with bow or rifle.

Archery is a popular sport, it is time to make people to choose between rifles and bows but hopefully by species ie. rifle for elk and bows for deer. This would help congestion to both types. We still need special archery season for all people in residential

river bottom country though. Also cross bows for this type of hunting.

Responsibility must be established among archers. To do this we must eliminate non-serious "archers". The only way this can be accomplished is to force hunters to choose between rifle and bow hunting.

I hunt elk only in two completely different areas. One is roadless, high country with heavily timbered areas, while the other is an older clearcut burn with very little timber, but very heavy brushy cover. Both areas are excellent elk producers and have two important things in common.

- 1) access is limited to foot or horseback only
- 2) Both offer secure habitat with good cover and plentiful water from springs and seeps.

Every year seems to get better as I learn more about the areas I hunt. Each year I've had shot opportunities and by spending a large amount of time in these areas it's given me the knowledge to allow me to kill branch antlered bull each year during rifle season at least.

Neither area is heavily hunted during archery season nor could either stand the pressure of large numbers of hunters.

Although I don't look forward to it, I know the day will come that I have to choose between pursuing elk with either bow or rifle, I'll choose the bow. At that time at least all the archers will be dedicated to the sport. The major problem I see today is the rising number of hunters picking up a bow without first taking the time to spend hours practicing to assure their skill with it as a weapon.

I love archery hunting for elk, but I have always been a meat hunter, except when I archery hunt. If I had to choose between archery and rifle, I would be forced to drop archery. I think most of the archery hunters, I know, feel the same.

Part II 8,A. The reason I was opposed that I heard I haven't worked in other states. I think it is good idea if it reduce the the pressure on the elk. And if it was by species and not by weapon I hunt deer with rifle and antelope with my bow.

I really enjoy archery hunting for elk. It is really exciting to be within 10 to 30 yards everytime (almost) I go out. If I did have to make a choice between archery or rifle season I would choose archery.

To decrease bow hunting to the true bow hunter on either or season needs to be instituted. This should be by species similar to Washington. You should not have to hunt with a bow for all

big game. Older aged bull elk is a serious concern of mine we need many more for healthy elk herds.

I feel that bow hunting is a rewarding sport but the season should not be during the mating season, should have same road restriction as general season, be shorter than it is and bow hunter should have to pass some type of test. Also hunters should have (1) one choice to hunt rifle or bow not both. The penalties should also be higher.

An increase in the license fee (funds to support wildlife management and enforcement) and pre-season purchase will help clean up garbage hunting to some degree. My answer to II 8 A was oppose but this may be needed to slow down the growth of archery hunting by the "garbage" type hunters. This may be real good if combined with a late season archery season.

You should be able to hunt with bow, but not both bow and rifle. All archery hunters should be checked to see if they could hit a pie plate at 30 yds. If not they don't get to hunt archery. Also a cross bow and like shooting a rifle

Strongly oppose crossbow hunting, either or seasons, and muzzle load hunting in river bottom areas.

I personally feel that there is getting to be too many people bow hunting that shouldn't even own a bow more or less hunt with one. However I hate to see the regulations tightened down so much to the affect that you may only hunt 1 area for the entire season, and archers have to choose between a bow or a gun. That seems to me to in the long run make the people that would still bow hunt pay a certain price to do so, and the others can still use a gun.

I think you will find that archery kills of deer, elk, bears, etc. and archery hunting and the archery season have no noticeable impact on game population or game movement. The mechanical bow, (compound bow) has in the last 10 years made "instant" bow hunters and outdoorsmen who would normally have stayed home if they had to use real archery equipment.

The sheer numbers of these people could possible have an effect on forest fires and property destroyed, and in some cases game movement. An either or season would certainly change things. However this would be unfair, as such.

Perhaps either or tags would be a better deal. If you bought an elk archery tag, you could only kill an elk with a bow, same for deer or bear. If you get a cow permit for general season you could not shot a bull during archery or gun season. Leave the spike bulls alone, during all seasons, branched bulls only-all the seasons.

I think there is too many elk and deer to just have archery and rifle season. That you would have to pick one or the other and would cost the state a lot of money in revenue.

It is my understanding that archery only or rifle only seasons have reduced the number of archery hunters in states such as Washington and Oregon and others. I would like to see this enacted in Montana.

I strongly oppose separating archery and rifle season into only one and not the other seasons.

I feel that Montana hunters should be allowed to hunt either bow or rifle should not have to make a choice, that hunting choice makes Montana unique.

I've heard that there is a bill brewing that would make hunters choose between rifle and bow. I personally think that if the state of Montana passed this law it would lose half of its revenue from hunters.

Some problems I see in archery hunting- To many two season hunters picking up bows right before season. If you make an either or season this would end. Also archery equipment getting too mechanical, lets not reinvent the rifle-bowhunting is supposed to be harder!

Another big problem I see in the NW areas is the use of 4 wheelers and 3 wheelers. These (wreck all creation) vehicles go right under gates on closed roads. This is getting to be a pretty major problem. Possibly stiffer fines?

I think the either-or season for archery-rifle hunters is the only fast way to improve hunting for both groups-it would also eliminate all but the serious bowhunters-I feel that with the increased logging activity, locked up private ground and locked access to public ground that is taking place, that bowhunting or hunting in general is not going to be good for much longer. I also think area 324 should be reopened for archery season this would put less pressure on the other areas-I wouldn't mind paying more for my hunting licenses if the money were used to buy land or access to hunting areas.

I enjoy hunting very much and have hunted since legally of age. I've only bow hunted 4 yrs. but enjoy it so much that I think something has got to be done to control it. I feel that only allowing hunters the choice of archery or rifle would greatly decrease the amount of lazy bow hunters that can drive ATVs where ever they please!

How about making hunters choose between rifle and bow licenses for elk, but allow them to hunt both rifle and bow for deer?

I think if you made people qualify for and archery stamp and made it law that you can hunt either rifle or archery, not both this would decrease pressure for elk and they would be 90% less wounded animals.

This wasn't a typical bowhunting year for me. I was gone for half of the season and busy for the rest of it. What hunting I did get in was just on my own property. I usually hunt much more often in several districts. I am pretty satisfied with Montana archery hunting, but would strongly oppose having to choose between rifle and bow hunting.

Lets take a real look at the amount of hunting presure both rifle and bow. Make the hunters choose one or the other. Our game resource will decrease if we ocntinue the increasing amount of pressure. By choosing one or the other would decrease presure in both areas. Think about it!

An either/or rifle/bow season is long overdue in Montana.

Part I question 2 is way too specific to expect complete, accurate responses. You have probably skewed your results with this one.

I have passed up many shots, believing the shot was not quit good enough. I beleive that if you have an either rifle or bow (not both) it will weed out the bow hunters who do it for "just the chance at a shot". I also believe too many mature bulls are killed who should be producing next years calves. Permits are a good idea for elk all the way around (rifle and bow).

I'm in favor of either or on a tag basis. I also would like to see a cutoff date on archery stamps in July.

Feel it is very important to have hunters choose to hunt with either a rifle or bow (mainly elk).

I would favor "either-or" for elk only or by species, but not across the board for all species.

I would favor shrotening the rifle elk season by one week at the end and for eliminate spikes from being shot and for eliminate bull hunting during first week. I would accept going back to recurve or long bow only. No cross bows, please.

I think the hunters should have to choose bows or rifles in the Missouri breaks herds, like 1987. To cut the pressure in the "breaks" herd give individuals 1 week or 2 weeks to hunt, but not the whole season, as some locals hunters have been doing.

As an ex-Oregon resident, I would hate to see the game dept.

require an individual to choose between archery and rifle season. I know that I hunt archery for fun and rifle for meat. I do believe that all tags should be purchased before the season opens. (helps to prevent poaching). Though this was my 1st year hunting elk, I was very impressed and will now be an avid elk hunter from now on. Please don't make the same mistakes as Calif. and Oregon!! Game preservation is important but the enjoyment of the sport is just as important as the meat on the table. I would prefer to see less rifle hunters in the field than archery hunters. I hated to have to choose between enjoying my hunting alone during archery season or hunting with my friends during rifle season (when I lived in Oregon).

- 1) Limit bowhunters for elk to dedicated bowhunters and lengthen the season for them for at least Sept-October. Especially in the Missouri Breaks. Do this by making the hunter choose bow or rifle hunting for elk in Montana for that year. This would eliminate your bowhunter number problem and give the dedicated bowhunter more quality time in the field.
- 2) Do not sell any state or federal lands.

I agree to the either or season for elk only.

Elk are a big prize and the diehard push all season-bow and rifle. Too much pressure.

I value our elk and their future as a top value. I work in the woods and spend most of my weekends in the woods and elk and deer herd are on the increase in the last 5 yrs. I would like to see us hunt either by bow or rifle for elk to avoid (slob) hunters who are looking for an extra opportunity. We should have to show we're adiquit and firmiliar with bow tactics like Alaska does.

I'm not concerned with the deer because I know about 80% of the bow hunters in this valley and not more than 3 or 4 of them even make a serious attempt to hunt deer.

I believe that a person should choose which way he wants to hunt to buy his permits before season opens and before the drawing for permits. This would eliminate many people drawing permits that do not hunt and I also hope they close the whole state to killing of spikes, because some people abuse this from one area to another.

I feel that if you had to choose your type of season or that if you raised the cost of tags. It would get rid of people that are not serious about archery hunting. Also a person should have to buy all tags before hunting season. If you do not make a person choose your season to hunt in you should make it so that if you get a cow permit one year you are not eligible to apply the following year giving other people a chance to draw a special permit.

1) Make the bowhunter give up all rifle hunting for big game. That will reduce the number of bowhunters and those left will be dedicated bowhunters. Bowhunters then could hunt elk-deer-antelope in any district they choose for Sep-Oct-Nov. If not all the above species, this should definitely be done for elk. Especially the Missouri Breaks. A hunter with a bow permit in the breaks must give up all rifle hunting for elk in the state of Montana for the year he has a bow permit for the breaks.

2) Do not sell any state or federal lands to private owners. We are losing more and more private land each year to all types of hunting access. We must keep all that is remaining.

Do not make a season for only archery or only rifle hunters. The dual season must produce more money because of expenses spent by hunters. The true bow hunter will always be there and the occasional bow hunter will come and go. Because of the difficulty of bow hunting.

Archery is very challenging Please don't increase fees not restrict hunting "archery only" and "rifle hunting only". Let us have the benefits of both archery and rifle hunting.

8.b. Right now we have the best of both worlds and I don't see any reason to change it at this point. When it does become necessary to restrict the number of hunters heres a suggestion: 1. if a person wants to hunt all species during bow season he must give up his rihgt to hunt the general season that year, but if he wants to hunt the general season he must choose only 1 species to bow hunt. Antelope, whitetail, mule deer, bear or elk. This would limit the number of hunters in both seasons to some extent and still provide the maximum amount of oppertuntiy in days spent hunting.

I would agree with 8d if we could gun hunt even if we scored with a bow. Many other states already have this policy. Bow licenses cost the same as gun licenses and a person is allowed an animal with each licennse. Other than this I love living and hunting in Montana.

I am oppose to an eather or season (Rifle or Archery). This season would cause the end of archery clubs. I hunt for the meat more than sport and would be forced to quit hunting with my bow.

I personally feel we need to go to either hunting with a bow or rifle.

Also during the rifle season branch antlered bulls only for 4 yrs. Then cow permits by drawing.

I THINK THE SEASONS ARE JUST FINR THE WAY THEY ARE. IF I AM FORCED TO PICK BETWEEN A BOW OR A RIFLE I WILL PICK A RIFE BUT

WOULD REALLY MISS BOW HUNTING. ARCHERY SEASON SHOULD ALSO RUN WITH RIFLE SEASON IF THE CHANCE IS MADE. I REALLY ENJOY BOTH TYPES OF HUNTING AND WOULD HATE TO HAVE TO PICK BETWEEN THEM.

A lot of people are archery hunting with great increases in the last 2 or 3 years. I think that hunting just archery or choosing rifle, and not doing both, will do the trick. (less archers) license fees may be lost. Habitat should be aquired, and get rid of knapweed. There should be more elk in most areas.

I'd like to see an archery or gun only choice with the archery season split to two weeks at the end of Sept/early Oct and two weeks at the end of the gun season. OR a permit & draw system for archery season with the same season split above.

The two class system of archery licenses would cut down the number of two-way hunters, plus give incentives to be a one-way archery hunter.

Last Bow season I saw 3 elk that were hit Bad. they say any body could make a mistake I've archery hunted for 34 year now. I've either missed or killed, I've never crippled an animal. I would very much like to see Deer or elk tags stamped archery only or rifle only. one season hunting such as oregon has cut the bad shot game down a bunch. Also I believe that the archery hunter's should be able to use there tags in aggr. hunt's (archery only). Archery hunter's should be given all the breaks we can get. our ratio of kill is not very high. A real archer such as myself enjoy's being out calling in an elk 80% more than actually killing them. Don't get me wrong I'll shoot any good shot I can get. Two season hunter's take any shot.

I strongly feel that archery season is great as it is. I would hate to see it shortened or have to draw for a tag. Also limiting hunting to rifle or archery would bring strong protest form resident hunters. If they do this I would like to see them try it on out-of-state hunters first. I live in Montana for the great outdoors, let the people who don't live here pay for there use of Montana.

I don't want to be limited to one area or one form of hunting. Most hunters, I feel, would go back to rifles only. Then you would lose the money spent by them (for archery), costing you even more revenue. and animals aren't always in one area. MOST IMPORTANT: Some of my best times. have been hunting. AND I DO NEED the meat. Don't make it so DAM expenses that ONLY doctors and up can afford it. (please)

I know you folks have a really hard job. But just keep it, so the poor man can afford it. too,

Archery hunting should still have the chance to hunt Deer & Antolope with rifles. Because there ins't that many bills in this

area with bows.

I sincerely believe there should be one choice either bow hunt or either gun hunt on one license. The area I hunt the bull population has dropped considerably the last few years. The 30 days of hunting I done this year on horseback approx 20 miles or more a day I never see on bull. I believe the elk shouldn't be disturbed while in the breeding season. I have hunted 20 years about with a bow and it is enjoyable, but don't shoot the bulls off in a time requires to breed the cows. I think the season should be approximately 10 days after the 5th of October.

Making archers declare to archery only will weed out the casual hunters who only wound game and interfere with the serious archer. The impact on bulls must be reduced

I don't know what would help get rid of non serious bowhunters. Money is no object for these people so raising fees would not help. Except to hunt with or without bow. But I don't really want to give up Rifle hunting. So I don't know the answer.

I don't think any sport should be and either -or thing, therefore stopping a person from rifle hunting because they archery hunt would be unfair. Having special drawing for game tags in areas where game population is low is fine- but don't stop people from using the mountains by not giving them licenses. I think this would lead to more poaching which is a big enough problem already.

I am a very casual bow hunter. I hunt 1-3 days per year. What I treasure is the opportunity to plan, dream & go hunting. Don't take away the planning & dreaming aspects by limiting bow hunting. Don't ask me to choose between bow & rifle.

I feel archery hunting in MT. shouldn't change except to possibly extend the season. selecting weapon hunting shouldn't be put into effect for at least 20 years.

if they decide a hunter must choose either rifle or bow to hunt with I believe this should only limit the hunting of deer and elk. A hunter should be free to use which ever means he wants to take an animal he's drawn a special tag for. I'd like to see the archery season go to a 4 point bull or better season.

I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF AN EITHER/OR ARCHERY-RIFLE HUNTING SEASON. IF IT WAS FORCED ON US, I WOULD CHOOSE ARCHERY.

If it ends up that the MFWP thinks that bowhunters should have to decide between hunting with bow or rifle, I think they should be able to hunt one species in bow season and another in rifle. etc like elk in bow & deer & bear in rifle. But I don't think archers have a big impact on deer or elk in bow season. On the most part

the bowhunters that get their elk in bowseason, if they didn't would probably get it in rifle anyway. I think surveys like this are a good idea. Thanks for your thoughtfulness.

If you went to a choice hunt. Archery or gun, I'd have to pick gun. This I would feel would mean a loss in revenue to state and to private retail sales and would seriously hurt Montana economy. I feel archery has a place in our state and should be left like it is. Taxpayers have the right to do both types of hunting.

I feel that making archery hunters decide archery or rifle is unfair, an archery tag package good only for archery and a tag package good only for rifle with the hunter being able to purchase either or both. Each set of tags could be good only during those specified seasons and totally separate from each other.

The archery season in Montana couldn't be improved in any way other than maybe reducing the hunters who are not serious. but by making it a choice between archery and rifle and choice between animals you would be limiting my time to hunt with my son and other family members who don't hunt with a bow. I am very much opposed to that.

I feel the biggest problems are poor hunting habits such as running road closures ,taking poor shots, and trespassing. Whether archery or rifle hunting, access to some public lands is a problem by private landowners. I rifle hunt mostly in area 360, and access is a major problem there. My main concern as far as seasons are concerned, is the pressure to limit a hunter to either rifle or archery. Lets not follow other states. Let's keep our seasons open so that we who love to hunt can pursue both fine methods, archery & rifle.

I feel archery hunting is a privilege that is there for anyone who wants to take advantage of it not just present archers but anyone. just as rifle hunting is any time the DFWP starts change regs to restrict hunting to appease small special interest groups at the expense of the majority especially without hard biological data is wrong in most areas the animal resorce now is better than it has ever been and bowhunting has a very minimal effect on animal numbers, to remove bowhunters opportunity for recreation in any way is unnecessary. as for the current proposal of iether or seasons I don't think it is necessary or ethical to deprive sportsmen of their right to hunt both ways if they so desire the system as it is has worked for a long time and will continue to work ("If it ain't broke don't fix it") if you try to please everybody by the means proposed all you will do is make every body mad.

I came from a state that went to a rifle or bow only system it didn't work there and it wont work here, it will not help the

hunting and it would not help the small archery shops either, nor would it put more money in the pot for the Dept. F.W. & P., If I had to make a choice of rifle only or bow only I'd take the rifle hunt. You would be out my stamp money and I'd be out a challenge that I look forward to every fall.

I enjoy bow hunting for elk because it gives me the opportunity to go more often. Since I live quite away from elk and work weeks, bow season gives me a couple extra chances to go. Even if I don't for some years the opportunity is still there. It is very important to me to hunt elk in both seasons. Limiting a person to one season would be wrong. You can only get one elk-so what difference is it if its in bow or rifle season? Thankyou for seeking my input.

I like archery hunting the way it is and if you change or split the season to eather or I will pick rifel hunting. But I will still be out during archery season target shooting with my rifel. I don't feel like the bow hunters ass. should have the right to get their own rule & regulations & even though I like archery hunting I will do everything I can to stop them.

I've heard of the possibility of having either archery or rifle hunting per individual. If this happens I for one would consider bagging hunting altogether.

I know it is hard to satisfy all the people but before you make sportsman choose between rifle or bow think of the affect it will make!!!

I have seen the bow hunting get worse every year and I feel something should be done to preserve our hunting
I feel a good option would be to either bow hunt or rifle hunt not both

Bow hunting is more or less secondary to rifle season. if we were allowed only to hunt in one season, I would stop bow hunting

Elk bow hunting could be shortened to 2 weeks depending on when the season is held. Some ares have very low populations parts of the 130 area definitely need their numbers increased. There are no elk where there were good numbers just 10 yrs. ago. I hate to see a either or hunting season, but I'm sure it will come. Myself I just like to bow hunt to see more game and just get out.

I feel that all hunters should be treated the same. If there are special or extended seasons for one they should be for all, bow and rifle hunters.

There should be no discrimination in the hunting of ourgame because of the method used.

either or tags by species would allow serious hunters to have a

better chance @ drawing a special tag.

You should have to choose either to hunt with a bow or a rifle.

I don't like the idea of hunting with bow or gun choice I think that poaching would increase if you make people decide one or the other. I also don't like the idea of applying for permits to bow hunt another increase in poaching would acure from people mad about not getting drawn

INCREASED HUNTING FEE BY LANDOWNERS DURING ARCHERY SEASON TEND TO CLOSE OFF ACCESS AREAS FOR BOWHUNTERS. IF YOU ARE INCLINED TO MAKE A HUNTER CHOOSE BETWEEN BOW AND RIFLE THE F & G WOULD NEED TO MAKE SOME AREAS FOR ARCHERY ONLY THE ENTIRE HUNTING SEASON WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE SOME ARCHERY PERMITS ONLY FOR MOOSE, SHEEP AND GOAT.

I could live with the concept of choosing either rifle or bow for either deer or elk. i.e. the option to only hunt elk w/ a bow from start of bow season to the end of the general season and to be able to hunt deer w/ a rifle during the general season. This concept would or could be a useful tool to reduce the #'s of archers. This concept makes more sense than all the others proposed in #8 of the deer section except raising the fee to \$8 w/ \$2 for wildlife/access improvement. I would like to see ~~more~~closed roads w/ strict enforcement; being wishy/washy on this issue gives the Dept. a bad image - for example: roads in the Viponds (area 331) were listed as "closed", but the closure signs were turn down & vehicles traversed the roads - a metal gate could have been closed & locked but was left wide open. If the dept. has the guts to close a road (on paper), it had better have the muscle to enforce the closure.

I feel I need to comment on the following wuestions on your survey.

#8-a I personally hunt with bow and rifle both, if one or the other was taken from me I would feel greatly deprived of being a sportman. I think if a person wants to hunt with a bow, rifle or both then this is a decision for him to make and should not be forced to give up one or the other.

#8b,8c I think both of these questions are ridiculous, the only reason I could see for #b is if there were a drastic fall in herd numbers. #c-I can not see where this would be any benefit to anyone.

#8d-Does a person need to have a endless supply of money and be a expert archer to be able to enjoy this sport. Don't add to the burden of low income sportsman.

#8e- If the money from the conservation, archery and game license isn't going to this now then where is it going?

#10- I beleive I know your reason for this question, however, I have had to buy my license after opening day because of financial difficulties. If this was to be put into effect, there would be

years I wouldn't be hunting.

I get the impression from this survey that the M.D.F.W.&P. is getting static about archer congestion. I personally have no problem with this. There is thousands of acers open to hunting. All these people have to do is get out of their 4 by 4's and take a hike.

Please don't take this letter personally, but I felt I needed to voice my opinion.

I enjoy archery hunting mainly because the weather is so nice and it allows me time to become more familiar with the same areas I rifle hunt in I enjoy both types of hunting and wouldn't want to have to make a choice of one over the other.

18. SATISFIED WITH SEASON AS IS/LEAVE THINGS ALONE.

I'm pretty much satisfied with the way things are except for lots of other hunters at times.

If archery hunting is messed with too much I will probably quit hunting all together. I fill it should be left alone for a while.

Leave well enough alone.

Leave the archery season at status quo. With the exception being a longer season.

I think archery hunting is fine the way it is except I believe that the black powder hunters should have to buy a special stamp since they share the same season. Other than that it should be left alone.

Leave the seasons as they are. No more restrictions!

Why don't you leave the archery rules and regulations alone. Please do not turn it into a rich mans sport by raising fees and making one choose between rifle season and archery.

In the years that I've hunted elk and deer with a bow I've seen plenty of both deer and elk but haven't bagged any so the amount of kill by bow must be very low so why change the season or the limitations.

I think the current system used for hunting in Montana is a good one and should not be changed in any way for either archery or rifle hunting.

I think these questions are written to get the answers you people want. There is nothing wrong with the way the season is run now.

Please do not mess with the archery season as per #8.

I like the season the way it is now.

I feel the elk and deer archery season should be left the way it is. It allows alot of people more time in the woods to experience a good time, without hurting the elk and deer population very much.

In my opinion everything to do with archery season is just right. I suggest to leave it as is.

Archery season is just fine the way it is. Let's keep it where the average person can hunt in this state for all the big game

animals. What the Fish and Game should be working on is better access to public and private land and get people away from fee hunting.

Overall, I think archery hunting in Montana is as it should be. I feel hunter education is regards to hunters knowledge of what a bow and arrow is or isn't capable of is an area that should be developed. I believe that a person should be allowed to hunt both seasons and I feel that the rifle season, logging, the weather and rural growth affect elk distribution significantly more than archery hunting.

I would hope that archery doesn't change much in Montana - only that it will be there for the serious hunters, not the rich hunters only. I protest spotting by planes in all areas and in all degrees - a good way to destroy any decent hunting.

Archery season in Montana aren't broke. Please don't fix them.

This was my first year bow hunting and I really enjoyed it. I was able to watch a 5 point bull being bugled in and it was very exciting. This was my first time experiencing this in 20 years of hunting. I feel that I have learned more about the elk due to this experience. I hope you keep the archery season the way it is.

I don't think you should change the hunting season unless you shut down a complete area for the whole year and stagger the areas.

In Washington they have a rule #8A of this form and nobody likes it. I like the archery season that we have now and don't want anything changed.

I like it just about the way it is. Thanks.

When you have something that works, don't try to fix it.

Leave archery season and regulations as they are. Also license fees should stay the same.

I feel that many of these questions are written to get the answer which you would like to receive. Many are very vague and should be written to express an archers true feeling. You talk of either-or seasons. Many states already have thies. The revanue loss to the Fish and Game would be very great. We need to spend more time trying to open up public land, and to try to take the pressure of the landowner who seems to be doing the most complaining about the days we spend hunting, or in the field. Montana really has good hunting seasons. Lets not mess it up.

If the price of archery license is raised to \$20, the hunter

should be allowed to shoot a deer with bow, and with a gun when the fire arm season opens, but not 2 elk on account of low elk population.

At the present time I am satisfied with archery hunting in Montana.

We have a good archery season here in Montana; please don't screw it up.

I am not an archery fanatic or a purist. I think that the number of archery permits issued should be based objectively on harvest data, not on a restrictive quota designed to make archery hunting easier for fewer archers. I am satisfied with the present archery hunting opportunities.

Everything is O.K. with me the way it is. I lost this questionnaire in some magazines.

The archery season and regulations are just fine. To quote an old cliché - "If it works don't fix it"!

Please do not change the archery season. The management practice work well now.

Bowhunter education will reduce the slob hunters and make it a quality sport.

Archery hunting should be an enjoyable sport. Keep the restriction and bureaucratic policy out.

Please leave archery hunting as it is - don't screw it up!

I like archery season the way it is and would really hate to see it changed much one way or the other. It provides a large opportunity for recreation with a limited draw on the resource and always the possibility that success is just ahead.

I feel the bow season should be left as it is. It gives you a good time sport and hunt.

1) For personal reasons I did not hunt elk much in 1987. 2) Don't screw with the seasons, etc. - If it ain't broke, don't fix it! 3) You folks change the rules way too often! 4) Guided wife on moose hunt during archery season (1987). Saw hundreds of elk in 310 - we quit counting but could have seen same elk repeatedly - probable. 5) Rather than trying to "make work" for too many employees, how about firing the excess people. Things are fine the way they are now.

Archery is a difficult and rigorous sport, which requires significant amounts of practice and physical conditioning.

Because of those factors, it is largely self-regulating: it's just too difficult for most to get involved with. This is why I'm opposed to cross-bows as well as "well-intentioned" attempts at regulating the sport.

It is basically a non-consumptive use of game. Archers don't make a real dent in game populations. The sport is "growing" in popularity, but it will lose this popularity (much of it, anyway) as the difficulty factor and negative "success" factor comes into play.

With all due respect, sirs, just leave things alone.

The purpose of this survey is not mentioned!??? I would like to know that this survey hopes to accomplish and the actual costs in comparison to what is to be gained. Why must you always insist on change? If it's not broke, why try to fix it!???

The bow season in Montana is just right , it doesn't need to be shortened. Bow hunters do not ruin the hunting season for rifle hunter. That is done by bird hunters who also ruin our season. I don't mind the state leasing and grazing land to ranchers but I feel that it should be limited and the cattle should be out by opening day of archery season. I am satisfied with the archery season other than cattle and bird hunters and feel there is no reason to limit a archer to one area or one species of big game. I'm not saying we don't affect the movement or spoke the animals but I know its not enough to bother rifle hunters. Why should rifle hunters be able to go where they please and not be confined to one area. Whats good for one is good for the other. Archers have just as much right to hunt the state as anyone else. I hunt both with a bow and a rifle and see plenty of game in both seasons.

I'm a member of the Lost Arrow Bowmen and the Tri County Sportsman Association and on the Board of Directors of Tri-County. Unless Fish and Game starts listing to the problem with the lack of deer in and around Musselshell County, you will not need the survey, because there aren't that many deer!! As far as elk season (archery) goes, don't change a thing.

No changes needed in season.

I don't want to see cross bows allowed for hunting.

The length of the current season is nice because it allows a few weekends to hunt, since I go to school during the week. There does seem to be an increase in archery hunters, but most of the new hunters seem to give up after a couple weeks and the hunting pressure drops back to normal. Thanks for asking.

I think archery hunting should be left as it is. I would like to

see the increase to \$8 and the \$2 going to improvement of wildlife and habitat. I also think hunters should be required to buy their licenses before the drawings are held or before opening day.

I feel that the archery hunting should be left the way it is. I think that changing the archery hunting will cause problems. If the game population is dwindling the out of state game permits should be cut back on.

Leave it the way it is.

Leave the season as it is. We like it.

I'm strongly opposed to shortening seasons or any form of restrictions on species, districts, license availability etc. The system as it now stands offers a remarkable number of choices and opportunities. We don't need more restrictions or more pages of regulations.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. The archery season is all anyone could expect from a hunting experience and yes!! there are enough bulls.

Present season length allows for maximum opportunity at right time of year. Increased length would only increase dissatisfaction among rifle hunters who already think bow hunters have it too good, so increase length not a good idea. Shortening season, drawing, forcing choices all result in decreased hunter opportunity. If there is a biological need for such restriction of opportunity then it must be pursued. However, there should be a strong data base to substantiate such a need before restrictions should be considered.

The archery season should stay the way it is. It has worked in the past and will continue to. Cross bows would be a great mistake, they are far to accurate, too much range, and the challenge would be gone. Cross bows should never be ligitized for archery season.

Did not hunt elk with a bow in 1987. I feel that generally speaking, bowhunting is just fine the way it is, and should not be changed or complicated.

I had no chance to bow hunt the past season due to football. I really enjoy bowhunting and would like to see it stay.

I think that in most instances, the archery season is very well managed just as it is. It needs no tinkering with. I believe that the archery season in Montana is as good or better than a lot of states and it affords a great deal of recreation for a good many people.

There's enough people archery hunting in Montana at the present. I wouldn't create any drastic changes at the present. Archery hunting in Montana is "heaven" on earth.

I like bow hunting fine the way it is. But you guys will change something. Thats your "JOB".

I feel bow season should be left alone. It's just fine the way it is. If bow hunting is taken away from the rifle hunter, or rifle from the bow hunter, the state will be loosing alot of money.

This questionnaire is biased against the archer and archery season. We don't want any big changes, haven't asked for any and I don't see any reason for them. We enjoy a very high quality season now, why change things. If you want to see problems watch the general rifle season. There's some overcrowded, over hunted conditions.

I think the archery season in Montana is very good and I would like to see little change.

There appears to be someone in the Department that is prejudiced against the bow hunter. Lets not forget our oath of office or our Constitutional rights! I'm sure there are hunters answering this questionnaire that have no idea what you will probably try to do with the results of the questions and answers. Leave the bow hunter alone. the only ones that are unhappy with the way things are now, are probably self-centered people, very selfish!

Thanks, but I am not interested in being in your drawing. I don't have to be rewarded to stand up for my rights or speak out when I feel it is necessary.

Leave it alone. Archery season is just fine the way it is. One week of post season would be interesting. Never allow crossbows as an archery weapon.

I am well satisfied with archery hunting as it is. I hunt mainly by boat on the Fort Peck Reservoir as transportation to areas 410, 700, 622. Leave it as it is.

What difference would the different rules make? We're only allowed one of each animal, whether I get it with a bow or rifle. If I hunt both seasons, I spend more money - traveling and food.

Please leave the archery season like it was last year.

I think we have a excellant archery season. I hope there arn't more gun seasons at the same time as archery season. Like the early buck gun season they had in area 240.

It sounds to me like the fish & game is looking for a new way to collect revenue from the sports man; archery is still in good shape, so why dosent the Fish & Game leave things alone. And it will stay that way

I feel the present regulations concerning the archery season are very adequate. No major changes need to be made. We do need to charge out-of-state hunters more for this privilege. Also I would like an answer to my question about area 324.

I am generally satisfied with bow hunting in Montana. It's considerable better than most other states.

Archery is Fun. Access is a problem for me. I've seen people chase elk during archery season just to keep archers from them. Don't change things as I think they are quite Fair. Archery doesn't have much of an impact on game.

Killing not important, but opportunity to hunt for the most number of Days is highly important to me - Both with bow & rifle. I moved to Montana primarily to have the opportunity to do more Elk hunting. Please don't make any major changes in present archery seasons & please do not make us choose between bow & rifle unless harvest becomes too high.

Please do not break up our existing archery and general big game seasons! Our state is among the finest big game hunting areas throughout the world. Don't screw up a good thing - leave the seasons stand as they are.

I haven't hunted with a bow much because of Injuries I've had. What little I did seemed great and haven't seen much problem with the way the archery season is.

At this time I like the way Montana has it's seasons set up. I love to hunt and spend a lot of money hunting - Birds, antelope, Deer, Elk, Ducks & Geese. Thank you for your concern for wildlife & habitat.

Just leave archery season the way it is.

Bow hunting in our area is just fine. Its the skill of it, that is hard.

Question 8 Section D - I would not be opposed to the increase except for the reason listed. if the money were to go for habitat or management or Hunter Education I would support the increase.

I approve of the Archery season As it now stands, this way if I'm able to harvest an animal during archery season I can't hunt that

species during rifle season. This policy lets a person hunt for a longer time but prevents the person from becoming a game hog. I oppose opening archery season for cross bows As I feel this detracts from the idea behind archery hunting. Compound bows should be the limit of Technology during archery season.

Please don't change the present system.

How come every year it is a struggle to keep the archery season alive and strong? All I have to say is don't knock it till you have really tried it.

Please don't change our bow hunting rules.
I like it just the way it is.

I think the season is right and long enough to give most people time to hunt. This season wasn't as good due to no snow.

Leave archery season alone, do not try to fix something that works. Worry more about poachers and people who abuse our forests and wildlife. Archers by the most part are the best and most self consens hunters I have hunted with. We love the sport of archery

I am satisfied with Bow Hunting in MT & if anything I feel Bow season should be lengthened & rifle season shortened. Also big problem with 4 wheelers going off Road - need very, very stiff penalty.

We must not change a season length that has worked in the past. With 7 in hunting pressure, artificial calls must be stopped. I've watch hunters chase Bull Elk for miles.

I have been archery hunting for 5 years. Often passing possible shots of antlered game. and sure shots at non antlered game. I want sure kill shots. I often wonder what I am out there for when I drag in at night. Archery season is very fulfilling with or with out success and would oppose constricting regulations for my time of hunting during Archery season.

The present regs. do a good job ie:

1. Timing has been good. Good weather allows wider age group to participate and enjoy the back country.
2. Most areas are open & special restrictions only apply where very special conditions percist, ie congestion game management & etc.

Archery hunting to me has been satisfactory in the area I hunt. Numbers of game animals are good and the season isn't crowded with to many people.

Archery hunting give use the greatest opportunity at quality

hunting the Wildlife Deptment can provide. Please leave it alone,
Our biggest problems are access to out public lands, which would spread the people out even more.

I would like to see the Fish & Wild Life leave well enough alone.
I like it the way it is.

I think that archery season is fine just the way it is. I think that your commission is trying to fix something that isn't broken. If you feel the need to interfere in some part of the hunting season, work on putting a stop to pay hunting on private lands.

I think you should leave archery hunting alone if you make any change I would allow a seprate deer tag for archers.

I think things are just fine the way they are. There seems to be to much prejudice against archers.

leave it Alone Archery
Stop the Early gun season Cook City what A 200

My personal feelings are to leave the archery season like it is.

I feel archery season is fine the way it stands. Don't try to Fix something that isn't broken!

Why mess with a good thing

I like the archery seasons as they are now.
I use one arrow for every animal I get.
What can be done about the hunters that shoot too many arrows at Long Ranges??

For the most part I am happy with the archery season in Mont. I hunt mostly Elk & mostly for the opportunity to get out, see & bugle. I get disgusted with other hunters but there is not enough room here to explain why. I get thoroughly disgusted hunting around cattle. I feel the game animals really take it in the shorts on that issue. I would like to see a better over all big game & bird population in Mont. I do believe there is still room for more.

Archery hunting is very important to me, not just to get out & get something with a bow but to have the opportunity to do so.

I would like to keep the seasons we have

I beleive Mt. Hunting laws are at the present time adequate for my archery hunting. I don't favor change in any form. I also beleive reducing the # of Archery Hunters is not only unnecessary but unfair. Next step would be reduce # of hunters during

general season.

Do not change a thing!

I really enjoy Bow Hunting. I am happy with the seasons as is.
I Bow hunt Because I enjoy Being out not For the Kill.

I don't want you to change anything about archery hunting in Montana except maybe making bowhunter education mandatory.

I thoroughly enjoy archery hunting in MT & I feel the system now presents works fine but many of the suggestions in here could make t? Better.

Don't make any changes
Please leave thing as they are

I think in general that the deer and elk archery season in Montana is superb, it gives a person a chance to get out among the animals even if you don't get an appropriate shot at the animals. In 3 years of hunting I have shot only 3 arrows at deer and elk, but I enjoy emmensly being out and having the anticipation of a shot at close range. of one of our big game animals.

I'm pleased with the way the season is.

No
Don't Change Anything

Don't change anything

I am allowed one animal and I feel that I should not be restricted in the time or place or how I get my one animal.
Don't change things that are fine now.

I do most of my hunting locally, an hour or two in the everning or morning. Therefore I enjoy the time and length of the season. It fits well with my work scedual and is very relaxing.

I have been Bow Hunting for over thirty years and have never got an animal. I am very accurate with a bow but, am not a good staker.

Bowing hunting to me is a good excuse to get out in the Hills and go for a walk. I always get Deer, Elk and antelope with my rifles. If Montana became and "Either or" State, I would have to choose Fire Arms for hunting.

It is my feeling that few hunters get anything with a Bow and when someone does they are given a lot of publisity. That wouldn't even be noticed if they had taken any elk with a rifle. Lets leave the laws like they are now.

I challenge you to find one sound biological reason to restrict archers in suggested manners in Montana. Excluding the Missouri breaks congestion problem of recent - 99% of Montana has little or no problem supporting the Archery hunting it provides - I know the same cannot be said regarding gun hunting in Montana.

I approve the Montana Hunting System, it doesn't need many changes.

I thoroughly Enjoy the Archery season for Elk in Montana & have hunted for ten years. I like the season times (dates) & would like to see few changes with the exception of more road & trail closures to motorized vehicles.

I'm satisfied with the archery season as it now stands for my hunting areas - If Bow Hunter competition in specific areas (i.e. Missouri Breaks) becomes extreme, please fix the congested area only and don't apply special rules to the rest of the state where they are not needed.

If archery licenses were to become available only through a limited drawing throughout the state, would the Fish & Game Dept. be willing to purchase my archery equip. from me??

I like hunting like it is.

Please don't change things to hurt the good & safe hunters!!!!

The greatest quality of MT. hunting is that you can pursue many species at once. With a bow you need all the breaks you can get (especially at age 65).

Don't mess that up!

I like hunting like it is. Please don't change things to hurt the good & safe hunters!!

leave a well working system alone

I bealive archery hunting in Montana is great just the way it is, nobody should have any complaints because the ruler are right. I do think hunters should have licenses & tags before opening day comes around.

Your archery season has always been very agreeable to me, not much need for change thank you.

Leave the Bow Season alone. Its just fine the way it is. It its not broken - then don't fix it.

Happy with things as they are.

I think the archery season is O.K. the way it is, but some things might improve it. I think the best way to improve, is to

increase herd numbers, especially elk. If this means shorter seasons & less rifle & archery permits, so be it. Even paying a few more dollars for tags & such is allright if it goes toward herd management & not to increase someones salary.

If it isn't broke don't fix it.
Archery season is overall ok as it is.

leave the season alone, its fine as it is.

if something is working leave it alone -----

I think that both hunting seasons, are okay.

I feel archery hunting in Montana is generally good. I would be opposed to closure of any more elk hunting areas to archery. I would like to see some more archery only whitetail areas.

I seriously hunted for elk this year for the first itme. I had a lot of fun and saw 3 bulls and a few cows. I did not shoot, but did have one good chance at a 5-point-my partner got him. I like Montana's current program.

Unlike most people who hunt elk & deer by either choice of bow & arrow or rifle, I don't have a preference on either one. It's just more of an opportunity to go hunting & being out in the mountains. So in closing leave the season as they are.

Don't change anything please!!

I am very satisfied with the bowhunting season. I think it would be nice to see more information, programs, & seminars for the archers since the sport is becoming more and more popular.

Hunting season should be kept the same except for the amount of hunters. meaning, cut back on out of state permits.

The old saying if it ain't broke don't fix it applice here. There is nothing wrong with the fine archey season we enjoy. Maybe some some small expermental changes in isolated area for research.

This questionar seems to have mostly trick questions that insinuate we need a lot of changes. We don't!

I do favor increasing license fees but not neccesarilly for reduction of hunters. \$.

I also favor no sale of any big game license after opening day. this would eliminate some poaching.

The price of a elk tag cost less than a case of beer.

The restrictions of hunter recreation hours on public property is insane at a time when land owners a locking gates.

This comes off like you're dying to regulate something or

somebody. Bowhunting is important to me. Don't screw it up with bogus complications

- especially not for residents
- absolutely not because of political pressure from gun hunters.

Archery season's good left as is. 1987 was terribly dry in the woods. I live 10 miles back in the Mts. & we talked to the Forest Service to get logging roads closed, as it was dangerous. I would like to see some action taken by Fish & Game to close season until rain.

I enjoyed hunting leave it the way it is.

I think Archery hunting does slightly affect elk distributions, but the biggest effect on elk distributions is the sound of shot guns during archery season.

I feel that our archery season is just fine the way it is set up now and should not be changed in any way other than maybe having a late season in certain areas after the general hunting season.

I feel its good the way is is Please don't change any thing.

I think Archery Hunting for Elk is very exciting I think it should be left as it is! I don't see every time there is a change it always seems to taking care of with a increase in the license, as far as Archery hunting the game don't get hurt by the game survey

I strictly oppose question 8. A,B,C. In question 8.A you are taking the hunting away from archers if they want to rifle hunt. and in question 8.D. you are increasing the licences which I don't see is going to help!

Please leave the rules and system alone. it is perfect the way it is now. If you try to change things, you will spend allot of the tax payers money and make allot of people upset. I enjoy hunting, both with Bow and Rifle, some of the suggestions in #7 were so rediculas. Leave well enough alone.

I like Bow hunting how it is please don't change it any possible way. One exception hunters may only choose to hunt with rifle or bow. But may only hunt with one.

Our archery season is fine the way it is and should not be changed and permits and tags should never be on a drawing basis during archery season.

LEAVE IT ALONE

I do not feel there should be sig change in seasons or restrictions on Bow Hunters.

I would favor a once in lifetime limit on trophy bulls (5+

points).

I feel that the archery season, as is now, is just fine. I am opposed to including crossbows or muzzleloaders.

I think the archery season should stay the same.

I think the Seasons should be left just as they are, I don't want to see them shortened I've hunted five years with a bow and haven't killed anything.

If they raise licence or shortening the Season, I'll quit archery hunting.

Please leave it alone Fix Rifle Season before you try to mess up Bow season - I believe you should make Rifle season branch antler bulls after first week so the young of the year aren't slaughtered.

I find the regulations just fine, leave the archery program alone. I would like to see the Game Commission come out with some of their thoughts through the news media, prior to the seasons start, so that a person could respond to them sooner.

Ref: Part II, Question 8: Oregon instituted many of these changes a long time ago & it is a mess. I moved from that state to Montana for that reason alone. I would urge Montana to leave the laws and seasons alone, They are fine as they are. There is more game now than ever before. We must be doing something right as it is. Every new rule or regulation just removes another freedom.

P.S. The only reason I missed the 2 elk I shot at was because I hit a twig & deflected the arrow. I see lots of game but it is usually out of range or in too dense of cover for a good shot. Non-the-less, I love the freedom and just being out there and being able to have a variety of areas to hunt & equipment to use at any given time, please don't change it.

I am satisfied with the Archery season and regulations the way they are now and would like to see them stay the way they are.

I was satisfied with archery hunting this year! I feel that no change is necessary.

I am new to the sport of archery hunting. It is more of a challenge than hunting with the rifle. I would not want to see the fees increased or the hunting period reduced.

Do not change the present system! Archery hunters are not significantly impacting game populations! The fees are acceptable as they are!

Leave the season alone Don't change it?

At the present - Archery season is fine the way it is. The amount of wildlife harvested during archery season is minimal compared to what is taken during the too lengthy rifle season on private land.

I think it should stay the same.

This was the first year I hunted with a bow. Had a real good time. Please don't make up a bunch of new rules and mess everything up.

I like the Archery regulations just as they are. I see no need to change them except for maybe a late season or getting a special permit for congested areas. Fish and Game already has a handle on this. Increase of hunters will not have a significant impact because usually only serious archers are still in the field after the first week. Maybe a special season could be added for cross bow hunters on trial basis.

I never want to see a either or season in Mont. More has to be done about access to public land. Its a crying shame that alot of ranchers can block large amounts of public land, and own a small amount of their own. and have outfitter priviledges on public land.

I do not have time to pre-scout hunting areas - have found many promissing places - and I would not want to be restricted to only one area - part of the joy of archery & rifle hunting is seeing parts of this beautiful state I have not seen before. Thank you!

Don't mess up a Good thing! Can see no real faults with the present system. "If it ain't Broke Don't Fix It"
I have followed Archery trends for years and am just getting into Archery hunting now.

I like the archery hunting regulations the way they are now and do not want any significant changes

I am very pleased with present regulations and management of Archery seasons. Increased archery opportunities would help to distribute hunters a little more evenly. I am concerned with outfitters tying up land in Eastern districts for out-of-state clients.

Please leave archery and rifle seasons like they are.

I would like to leave both Archery Season and rifle season exactly as they are now. This affords me many enjoyable days of hunting recreation and increased opportunity to spend more time at my favorite activity.

It is not particularly paramount to me to "kill" an animal during Archery season. I personally feel the fall in Montana is the perfect time to acquire added skills through archery season to lead to a successful rifle season. I would love to "catch an elk" as my children used to say, but if I never do, I still feel like I will still go to "Hunter Heaven", and have had one hellava go time getting there!!

It's a good season the way it is right now, why not leave well enough alone [with the exception of increased fees & 1 week shorter. Thanks -

I feel we have a great opportunity in Montana and I am satisfied with the present seasons and feel they should not be changed, other than permit restrictions.

I have a young son and feel that we need to maintain the hunting seasons as they are. It is important to me to be able to spend as much time outdoors with him. Whether it be rifle hunting or archery hunting.

I feel that a few selfish people are trying to get permits on the right of the Missouri River Breaks. There is plenty of land (public) and an enormous amount of elk. My feelings are that the present permit system on the Northern side of the River should be abolished & go back to the previous open archery permit system -

I would like to see things stay about as they are - as far as rules. I have been archery hunting for about 15 years I have killed 10 or 12 deer with the bow. It has only been the last 2 years that I even looked at an elk in bow season. As I like to hunt with a rifle as well as a bow. I have passed up shots in the past at Elk just because I wanted to hunt later with the rifle.

Leave it alone. It's okay the way things are.

I appreciate the outing with a bow and am occasionally successful I also like the privilege of hunting with my rifle. I think we should leave things as they now are. Thank you!

I'm satisfied with the way the things are run now.

Archery hunting in Montana is excellent and there are not many ways it could be improved But do what you can!

I'm quite pleased with the archery seasons & opportunities that we have in Montana. I think we have enough room in Montana that nobody should be shut out any given year because he didn't draw a tag for archery. However, there are certain areas with too much pressure right now. Drawings in the future could serve to spread that pressure a little more evenly across the state.

Why fix it if it's not broke?

I think the way it is sett up now is working good. Theres not alot of people that kill anything with a bow. And if they do, they deserve getting that animal. Its not easy with a bow. You don't need anymore regulations on bow hunting or shortening the season. Theres enough laws out there already.

Archery hunting is fine for me the way is stands. I got into it to add to my season I get with a rifle, and because it was relatively inexpensive.

Montana has a pretty good archery season. Ask me again when I get more experience with the season.

Thank You for the opertunity and priviledge to hunt in Montana.

I would like to see all bow & rifle hunting stay the same as it is. Some people love to hunt both bow & rifle. I for one just love to bow hunt. We don't have elk in our area, so we have to travel, but we have in out area the best white tail hunting, so to hunt a certian district is out in my book!

I think for the most part Bow hunting should stay easy

Because most Bow hunters are not that good and only, as I do it part time and for the fun of it.

I like it the way it is.

I am satisfied with the Montana archery season but would like to see a couple small changes and think this survey should be helpful.

Leave as is. Everytime they close area's they then force more hunters in less area which kills more.

I think they should keep archery hunting the way it is.

I like the archery season the way it is. I have hit a big 6X6 bull in the horns. I have also seen several 7 point bulls but never to get close enough.

Hunting pressure and distribution is determine by the type of hunter or sportsman.

To me the big game archery season is working well. Thanks for tring to make it better.

I love the time the hunt and the weather. I am completely satisfied even though I never get an elk. I had a beautiful spike bull at approximately 70 yards broadside and did loose an arrow. I want to be close, sure and positive no wounded lost animals for me if I can help it.

I feel the archery season is fine the way it is.

I do not want to see any changes that restricts bow hunting

severly.

Please don't do anything to hurt the bow hunter in Montana. It is a wonderful form of recreation, even if you don't get one.

I love Montana hunting. Not just for the great game and contry but because it is not regulated to death like other states. I hope to contribute as well as I can but would not like to see a bunch of new rules that realy arn't necessary. Keep up the good work.

I would like to see archery season stay as is.

I think things are pretty good as is-

Current seasons and regulations are very satisfactory. No changes are necessary.

Archery hunting is great in Montana and I don't feel any changes should be made at this time.

Things should be left like they ARE!!

I'm content with the way the archery season is but I do notice an increase in the number of archers in the field.

I hunt only elk with the bow, not deer. I like to bugel elk.

I feel archery season is fine now but there is getting to be more and more all the time and some restrictions should be applied to ensure equal and fair hunting opportunities for all.

Leave the season and limits the way they are set now. Close the sneak roads around the gates and make fines higher for trespassers behind closed gates.

I feel elk population is up. I would lik to see a wlay to alimate the over nite bowhunter's that are not serious at all. I would like to see archery seson left alone It is simple and it work's please!

I think that the archery season is great the way it is and nothing should be changed. The price for an archery stamp should stay the same.

Over all I feel that the archery season is managed pretty well I don't feel that there is a great need for any major changes in the near future.

I had a tough yr. this yr. as far as harvesting animals is concerned-1 rifle elk only but the archery season allows me to hunt longer and throughout the state. I love a lot of ground. I

enjoy hunting in this great state. I would pay more to hunt if the \$ go toward game improvement activities. Don't limit the resident to one season-Rifle-or Bow.

Archery season is reaa good in region 1. We sure don't need any of these ridiculous restrictions proposed on Pa. 3 of this survey.

Just leave it alone.

School the people. They need to know what an arrow can do. Respect the sport and wildlife. Leave the season alone. Regulation on branch bulls is good. Don't ask Montana hunter to choose between bow or rifle. There is enough do's and don't. If any body has ever hunted both sports. Knows that they are two difierent challanges and sports.

I also like some of road closures. Closing the spur roads, but leaving the main road open.

But its good if everybod follows the regulation. Last season I noticed a lot of poeple don't not follow this regulation. Now it hard to hunt and feel good about these rules and regulation that only some of us hunter follow. If hunting in Montana going to be properous for game population and hunting. Then you have to educated the people more on road closures and to respect them more.

I think archery season is perfect the way it is, and should be left as is.

I am satisfied with archery season, but I do believe there are way to many archery hunters that aren't serious and the very good area's, such as the Missouri River Breaks, are overcrowded because of this.

I'm glad the season runs up to within 1 week of the general season. Archery hunting does not affect distribution of elk significantly in my opinion and the few hunters that like to hunt late (few in #) should have the opportunity because the impact on population and general season are minimal.

I would like to see special late seasons in specieal areas for deer and possibly elk. Also more opportunity should be provided to harvest goats, sheep, and moose.

Over all I think the archery seasons are OK but I would like to see a special season, maybe at the end of the bow season for cross bows.

Am quite satisfied with archery season in general. Think more money should be spent on habitat and hunter-landowner relations

and less on administration and buildings.

GENERALLY SPEAKING I THINK THE MONTANA ARCHERY SEASON IS EXCELLENT AND I CAN FIND NO REASONS TO CHANGE IT.

I like the archery season to stay the way it is, no changes are neccessary

I feel that you shouldn't change a thing. I personally have seen over ten branch - antlered bulls, but I hunted in the same areas during rifle season but I didn't see any. What I am saying is that just because people don't see the elk during rifle that doesn't mean they aren't there.

YOU MAY MAKE IT MORE EXPENSIVE BUT DON'T CHANGE TO MUCH AS ARCHERY HUNTING IS GREAT FUN WHICH IS MY REASON FOR GOING
A KILL WOULD JUST BE ICING ON THE CAKE.

Leave it just the way it is right now.

I've hunted Idaho for 9 years before I moved to Montana and I personally think that Montanas bow season is exceptionally better than Idahos. It starts at about the same time but Mont. gives you extra weekends for hunting. I don't get to hunt much during the week because of work, so I think the Fish & Game has great seasons. Theres not much more to say other than Montana has a great archery season. thanks.

This year was not typical in that I didn't get into the field anywhere close to what I would do normally.

All in all I think that big game hunting in the state of Mt. is fairly well handled. The opp. is there to enjoy archery hunting in the whole state, Game numbers seem to be up. All in all I see no need for much change in policy

I THINK THE ARCHERY SEASON IS FINE THE WAY IT IS.

I like the Montana archery season just the way it stands now. From my experience bow hunters have such a low success ratio that they have very little impact on the population of big game.

IT AIN'T BROKE-DON'T FIX IT

We really enjoy archery season and bowhunting , and sincerely hope that we can continue to enjoy our sport the way we have done in recent years. We don't want more of anything, but would like things to stay the way they are.

Archery is good the way it is run the way it it. lets not mess it up. By having new changes. an taking away what we have now. Just for the nonreident.

LET'S KEEP THE SEASONS THE WAY THEY ARE.

I believe Mont. F&G has done a fine job w/ the archery season. I can't see changing anything I feel that by shortening the season or allowing only bow or rifle hunting would be of no value to the system.

I really enjoy this sport & don't want it changed

I have lived in Montana all my life and bowhunted for 12 years. Montana has an excellent archery season, well managed and controlled, I see little reason to make any changes except to possibly even lengthen the season.

Don't take away our archery season.
if I want to go to war. I'll prejoin the Air Force. Too many gun hunters!

I feel you should leave things the way they are
(Thank you very much)

I think archery hunting & seasons should remain as are in Montana. We are not over harvesting elk or game in MT. I am opposed to either or seasons, but could live with them if we had a choice as per species to hunt with gun or bow. If we go to either or seasons the success rate will go up. Then the season will be shortened, then I will hunt every day along with alot of other bowhunters, thus we get into an over pressure situation. Please leave as is, also I would like to see the permit system on the North side of the Misour River areas 621,623,622,630 etc discontinued.

Being a President of a large archery club located in Region 4, we are all perfectly satisfied with archery hunting in Montana, the way it is. Let's not take hunting opportunity away from are up coming generation of bow hunters by limiting how many can hunt.

I am very satisfied with bow hunting just the way it is, I enjoy it, and being out doors that time of year. I enjoy just watching the habbits and movement of big game animals killing these animals is not everything about hunting.

I feel that the archery season is set up and run very well. I would like to see the bear season in the 300 districts open up to firearms at the same time as archery season opens though. You have a good archery season going don't screw it up. Thankyou

I am generally happy with the archery regulations in Montana and have had a very enjoyable 1st year. I am looking forward to next year very much.

I feel the archery season is very good just the way it is. One of

the reasons we moved to Montana from Minnesota in 1986 was because of the hunting program and would not like to see anything change. Thank you for the oppertunity to voice my opinion

Protect our Archery hunting

I like our bow hunting in Montana, Don't change it.

I like archery hunting just the way it is!

For the most part I would prefer the seasons left as they are & be able to hunt both with rifle & bow

If something isn't working you fix it. If it's starting to falter you work on it so it will keep going smoothly. But if it's working well and running smoothly you don;t mess with it just to have something to do.

So us documented proof something is wrong and we will help you fix it.

Archery season is my favorite time of the year. I hope there will be no changes in the season. I would like to see the licenses raised to 8.00. Also a bow hunters education course. I would greatly appreciate the results of your survey when they are completed.

19. INCREASE ARCHERY STAMP PRICE (LICENSE FEES IN GENERAL). TO REGULATE HUNTERS.

Hunting with bow and arrow is becoming a bigger sport because of self competition, satisfaction and less problems with non-hunters. If fees go up it might, in my own opinion, loss this sport. Equipment costs to hunt with bow and arrow is higher than hunting with rifles.

I think Montana should increase license fees in all areas of licensing. Less serious hunters will not pay a larger hunting fee. Also the increased revenue should be used for alot better wildlife management. It should also be used for alot better system of catching and prosecuting poachers.

I would favor an increase in fees if the funds were used to purchase access easement through currently closed private land to reach public land. (Similar to the current effort to acquire fishing access sites).

Hunting license should not be raysed in price, I pay to much now.

This survey is slanted toward restricting/increasing costs for bow hunters. I feel that we already pay a fair price for our rights. For the most part bow hunters tend to be more careful in the treatment of the land and game. I would hope careful study were done before pinning problems on bowhunters.

The costs per archery stamp can go as high as NECESSARY (e.g. \$50+, \$100+) in order to maintain healthy herds with trophy specimens.

I feel an increase in an archery tag would be alright if an extra deer tag is supplied. I think a hunter should be allowed a deer with a bow and a deer with a rifle.

The elk I hunted did not bugle nearly as much as expected, eather the season was early or the weather was unseasonly warm. I don't like regulations by pricing people out by making too expensive. All hunting sports are fast becoming a rich mans sport, as more and more privet land is closed to the general public. My hunting area is getting smaller because of land owners closing it up to the public, and letting only the people they know hunt their places. I have found it very difficult to obtain permission to hunt private land, as the owners make themselfs hard to find. Probably because they get so many call, and find that it takes a lot of their time.

I'm glad to see that the state is finally looking at age class distribution in the bull segments of the elk population. I do however feel that the state is not being as aggressive in

implementing more restricting regulations on the harvest of mature males as it should be. Would like to see some means of weeding out the ill prepared bowhunter. The increase in the cost of the archery license may be the answer. Why not \$30.00 rather than \$20.00?

The weather was a factor this year, to warm and the elk didn't start rutting till later on. I am a hunter that is only able to go out a couple of times a year. If the archery stamp cost is raised I won't donate my money for only a couple days of bow hunting.

The one thing that myself and several of my hunting friends would most like to see changed is an added late season after the rifle season is over.

I would like to see the season change to after the main season. The reason for this is for the people how take the shot they are not sure of would have snow for tracking (most years).

I believe there are Too many non archery hunters, hunting during archery season. Also a more expensive license would not help because alot of these hunters don't purchase an archery stamp until they get something anyway.

I think the idea of raising Archery license to \$20.00 & reducing season is h? for only a select few a H?, p? that as a life time Montanan I detest v?

Why make archerier's pay more for there license when it is tougher for use to kill the game - I also think that the season should be when rifle season is know.

Post season hunt for mule deer when they are in the rut. Fee should go up to make sure only committed bowhunters are in the woods \$20-\$40 archery tag?

When you buy a hunting lincense you should be able to hunt during archery season at no extra charge. To charge for this archery liscence you should give us a tag that can only be filled during archery season. Say a deer tag.

Would like to see permit in 410 area- up the license to weed out the less serious Archers - I hunt with a gun only if not successful with bow Elk only with Bow.

If any changes are to be made to decrease bowhunting numbers my first choice would be to increase the cost of the archery stamp.

I believe the kill Ratio is low for archery hunters in Montana, therefore I would not like to see an increase in the Archery Stamp Fee.

I know of a lot of hunters who use archery season to get in shape

for rifle season. None are real serious archery hunters. If fees are increased or too many restrictions imposed you will lose many of us who most likely will never shoot the bow, but do contribute the required fee in the interest of wildlife management.

I do not approve of increasing archery stamps by any amount. I think it is by far preferable to rifle hunting. I would like to see things remain status quo if the alternative is increased restrictions on archers. I would also like to see archery legalized throughout both seasons in respect to hunting elk with bow in permit only districts during the rifle season.

the biggest thing is why does it cost extra to bow hunt (stamp) when it is tougher with a bow. Why not charge for a rifle stamp. It would be alright if there was a deer tag or other included in the bow stamp, but I can't see charging for bow hunting and not rifle.

\$20.00 is not enough to money to stop most people from buying an archery tag.

I realize that it is hard to please everyone. I think that because of the large # of hunters new a days we must limit something in order to have quality hunting. I think choosing to hunt with bow or rifle, maybe some permit only areas managed for trophy quality animals; a few more post season archery hunts or post season drawing permit hunts; a few more archery only areas. If some archery only areas were made maybe some rifle only areas where rifle hunters wouldn't have bowhunters hunting ahead of their hunts, I do think that raising license prices for bow & rifle & having a set amount for habitat improvement or Biological studies eartagged is an excellent idea I could really help if key winter ranges could be improved or bought.

On economics: I would be willing to spend \$1000 or more each year in order to hunt places in Montana which are not game farms. Which have less hunter congestion, and trophy quality animals are more abundant. This may be a possible type of hunt on permit only trophy areas, even if these high demand areas are hard to draw. Thanks.

I hope you don't use the excuss will lessen the hunting pressure by increasing the Bow hunting stamps. Lousy Excuss. Also don't make everybody take a Bow hunting course to hunt, I don't need somebody to tell me how to shoot a bow. let me be the judge of that, otherwise you will loose a lot of hunters, including me.

This was truely a good questionair, however question 14 on page 4 upsets me to no end.

The value I feel for archery hunting is not measured in \$. Yet the \$ value controls wheather or not many of us can enjoy this greatest of sports. Especially if you have children whom you

want to share this experience with, children who depend on you to pay their price for the privilege

Question #8-E I do favor licenses increased if the money is spent on big game wildlife habitat only.

I will now contradict my answer to question #13. I'm glad to see someone finally do, in my opinion, a good survey on harvest & preference in Montana.

I like the early season and the fact that there are fewer hunters in the woods. I am just starting in archery and can see no reason why archery stamp prices should be increased to bar beginners. How will you ever become an expert? I don't think that the archery season has much of an impact on rifle season, except maybe by then they're smarter and will live longer, They stand a lot better chance against a Bow!

I didn't make any kills in 1987 with my bow. I have harvested deer in previous years. I enjoy hunting with my bow and rifle. I am a MBA member, I don't mind paying for the privilege to archery hunt in MT. I AM in favor of increased license fees. I just like the chance to do them both.

The Question on should the Archery Fee be raised to 20 dollars is not in the best interest of most archers I have talked to. The reason being is that they feel it unfair to be paying the high fee when others are not.

I feel the archery season is handle well and the ARchers themselves need to concentrate on better landowner hunter relations than depending on the Fish & Game to do it all.

I don't understand why a Bowhunter has to buy another stamp to use a bow. You don't make me buy a stamp to hunt with a rifle. Your just getting too money hungry.

I think if the Fee's are raised for archery or any liscence on a state average it will keep a lot of people out of the Field that utalize the meat after they get it other wise they will just stay home, & buy meat over the counter. Thank you

As a rancher I have never had any trouble with an archer. They have never cut a fence shot a cow or drove in my fields. Not so with out other breed of hunter. I oppose any idea to make it tougher to bow hunt. I don't hunt much, but have allways bought an archery stamp. I am allways a little shocked at how much I pay for the privelage.

I only go a couple days a year - if you raise the cost I won't donate my money for Bow Hunting. I Bow hunt for fun - the chances of getting an elk are not to good.

By raising the Archery fee will not limit the non-serioys Archers

but only the ones that can't afford \$20.00. The only why to limit non-serious Archery is to make a choice either hunt with a bow or rifle.

Archery Hunting in Montana is great, just the way it is other than raise the Fees a bit to cull out the not so serious hunter.

I use Archery season as a primer for the General Season. I don't want to see the hunting in Montana turn into a richmans sport, Archery or rifle. Montana is a place where a hunter, no matter how much money he has, if he wants to hunt he can. Thats the way it should be.

I am all for increased fee's to deter novice hunters as long as I can see that "extra" money being used in some way that benefits us archers. Archery is a challenging sport that anyone should be able to experience as long as they are experienced with their bow. Post season hunting should be allowed in problem areas.

I Dont beleive the cost of liscences should go up there high enough already

Survey isn't too bad - A lot of questions unanswered. As far as raising the Archery stamp goes. I question: "What happens to the archery stamp money now?" Justify raise, and tell me what am I going to get in return for raise. Conservation stamp money is suppose to go to improvement of Wildlife habitant which also helps non-game species. Under normal years I personally put alot more time in Archery hunting as many as 20-30 days. I could fill your booklet with comments!

I would like to see an increase in liscense fees to discourage the not so serious hunter, and would also like to see some kind of test to pass like "hunter saftey" because I have repetedly seen hunters in the field horrasing boath game & other hunters.

Raising license fees will keep poor people from hunting. They are the people that need it most to take care of their families.

*I feel that it would be ok to raise it to \$20; however I would like to see an extra deer tag accompany the stamp. Allowing a deer with your bow as well as one with your regular sportsman license

I think one thing that could be avoided is turning hunting into a rich man's sport or something for jsut a select few.

I feel we must start increasing the improvements of out wild game. If it takes raising the prices of tags or licenses, then I feel we should. After all we have the power to make or break any species hunted - Many years I have purchased lic. and not bagged

game - I enjoy just being close & watching their beauty.

I am in favor of regulations statewide to increase numbers of mature bulls. I also am in favor of increased fees to limit number of cushion hunters.

My wife doesn't think my new archery equip. is much good for anything but the garbage. You see, she wanted new furniture this year. OH WELL maybe next year. Maybe.

If archery tags are brought up to the \$20 level there will only be a few who will buy them leave the cost where it is at - raise the out of state cost - these people come in here and hunt pretty cheap and they can cause havoc with in state hunters. This was a good interview.

Increasing liscence fees and making permits harder to attain only makes it difficult for residents (tax payers) to hunt in their own county. Having opening day in mid week also gives non-residents the jump on residents.

I believe that the archery stamp cost should be dropped because you don't see a rifle hunter having to buy a rifle stamp, jsut tag's before hunting. Why should we be charged extra, Archery hunter should be charged fairly like all class of hunter's. Not to be discriminated against having to pay extra.

I think archery hunting in Montana is excellent the way things are except that fee's should be higher like the \$20.00 you have in this booklet it might cut down on the parties and all the people on opening day and only the serious hunters will be out.

I think that if any or all of the management actions listed on page three were applied, the best ones to go with would be the license fee increases. Limiting hunters to rifle or bow only, or one species or on area would seriously discriminate against many archers. Also, I think that the number of bowhunters is not significant enough to warrant a drawing-only license system.

I am basicly opposed to anything that decreases hunting opportunity to serious hunters. I am not opposed to methods to discourage casual hunters as long as they are reasonable, such as raising license fees or requireing attendance at safelty classes or such as long as they are offered at times that a normal person could attend.

Leave everything as it is. If you raise archery license fee and elk and deer license, you will lose me and many others from bow hunting.

I don't think increasing the cost of archery tag would decrease the hunters because of the amount of money invested in equipment.

I feel questions on this booklet such as No. 8 were unfair to ask. I feel cost are high enough and each time you raise costs it concerning me. Because I enjoy bow hunting very much it doesn't need to be a rich man's sport. And I see in no.8 a motive behind it.

If you go with #8d, then increase rifle licenses by \$100.00 to get rid of the good 'ole boys who go out to drink and other gun hunters who also aren't considered "serious" by FW&G. However, it would be interesting to know how you define "serious". After all, a lot of people who "go fishing" never wet a line and still enjoy "going fishing"!

#10 discriminates against people who's schedule doesn't let them plan ahead and against people who can't afford to have dollars tied up that far ahead.

Except for e, #8's items don't appear to have a basis in game management. Looks more like an attempt to get at the archers.

Any cost increase in licenes must be place in a account with W.F.P. Not the general fund of the state. The money to be used for wildlife habit and herd study. Also the archery ed program. Also for the hunter ed program of the state.

I think that the archers that aren't very serious about the sport should be thinned out. Bow hunting takes dedication to do properly. Maybe this could be accomplished by substantially raising the archery license fee, say about \$20 or \$30 dollars. Most serious bowhunters wouldn't complain if it helped improve the sport.

I don't want to see heavy restrictions on species, weapon and districts just yet. I would be more for raising the cost of archery license to reduce the number of non-serious archers.

I would favor a shorter archery season (one week shorter on each end of season) rather than have to choose between rifle or archery. I would be willing to pay \$12.00 for an archery stamp. I do not feel that there are too many archery hunters. My typical days to archery hunt each year is 10-14. This year I was

working on wildfire in California and missed most of the season. I do not feel that most bow hunters are as serious as me and my hunting friends. Charging more for archery stamp may help if general feeling in that there are too many people out there harassing the elk during bow season.

I think you should leave things the way they are I don't think that archery season affects the game population at the present. I don't run into another hunter very often. We have to many laws the way it stands. Leave it alone.

We need better control of people shooting game with guns during bow season. We heard more shots and saw more gut piles during bow season than gun season.

In the breaks area's there are to many hunter that hunt there as an extra season to there elk hunt. It could be for the people that hunt elk only with a bow. The F&G want to limit hunting pressure in these area's. Why don't they sell "Bow hunting only, elk tags for the breaks" this would be cheaper and easier then anything they have come up with yet.

Item II on elk hunting, Part III hunting pressure has not disturbed elk as much as the use, either legal or illegal, of ATV's in the hunting area.

Item 13 part III elk hunting. The protection of spike bulls may have a negative long term affect on elk herds. Many 1 1/2 year old bulls may have branched antlers. These are the bull we should protect. They are the ones that have the greatest potential of becoming true trophies. In trophy deer herd management the culling of spikes from the herd is encouraged. Instead of protecting the spikes perhaps we should protect all the bulls with less than 5 pts.

I think that there should be a extra license fee of \$100.00 if a person wants to hunt with bow and rifle. This would eliminate the poachers, that use archery season as an excuse to poach with guns. (slob archers). The poachers already know they want to gun hunt and won't pay the extra money to hunt with bow therefore eliminating them. The \$100.00 fee would also make up for lost revenue from the decline in archer. Any extra money should be used to buy up wintering areas for wildlife.

I am in favor of increasing the archery stamp significantly to pay for land aquisation by the F&G.

I think serious archeriers should be the only king of archers to be allowed to hunt with bow. Either raise the fee for stamp or require a shooting test for proficiency to obtain stamp.

I believe you are already charging plenty for liscenses. You cant make me believe that your improveing hunting with that money. Numbers are up now in deer and antelope populations. But what are you going to do when they go on the down cycle and you aren't getting all that revenue from extra tags? Double our fees? That would be my geuss.

I feel the cost to resident hunters shoudl be kept as minable as possible. If cost keep rising oru lower income residents will no longer have the privledge of hunting as a resident should this would also increase poaching in our areas.

part II #8 - D & E, it cost to much to live in a state that has no job's now. Raising our licenses will not cut out the jerk's at all, they have money to.

it will just cut out some of us that don't have the money, but does enjoy archery hunting more than any other sport.

I would recomend the increase to \$20 with \$10 to promote habitat preservation & enhancement. a limiting for cow elk to 1st 2 wks, limiting to branch antlered where deemed necessary, seeting up bow hunter courses to educate the new & old archer & to determine their shooting capabilities But I strongly oppose limiting a person to either bow or rifle, to one season or to shorten the bow season because of the effect on the elk & bear due to certain weather changes & conditions which in itself controls hunter harvest

I personaly would not mind if fees were incresd for all hunters for big game, for the purpoes of better elk mgmt. I would also support increased restrictions with B-game rifel hunting, in order to incress size of elk populations and bulls alike.

I would like to see both in and out of atate hunting fees increased significantly allowing

1. purchase and improvement of more lands
2. less pressure (although hopefully less out of state pressure)
3. More serious hunters
4. More enforcement of rules
5. Stricter and harsher punishment for those who break the rules

Hunting in Montana is very enjoyable because of long season,

variety of species and large animal populations. My concern is the commercialization of hunting by outfitters and the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Dept. to generate income. If the trend continues, young lower income people won't be able to afford hunting.

I have bow hunted in Wisc. & MT. The quality of the hunt is important to me. Bow hunting offers the unique quality that is not required by gun hunting. Any licence increase should be equitably distributed among hunters, as any restrictions should be.

MONTANA'S LICENSING FEES ARE FAIR FOR ALL THE POPULATION. ANY INCREASE WILL PUT TO MUCH OF A BURDEN ON THE POOR, MAKING ARCHERY HUNTING A RICH MAN'S HOBBY. I WAS BORN & RAISED IN MONTANA AND HAVE CHOSE TO LIVE HERE, NOT FOR MONEY BUT FOR THE AFFORDABLE RECREATION IN THE GREAT MONTANA OUTDOORS.

I feel that the cost of deer & elk lic. could be raised (resident big game)

Also cost of cow elk permits should be raised (apply to rifle) that being the non refund charge maybe from \$2.00 to a \$5.00 cost

It is discrimitory to charge an extra fee for archery hunters. The money is never used to help archery hunters in any means that is visible to me.

One method to further benefit elk hunting is to further restrict out-of staters and cut down on the fly by night guide services. Look at some of the one's caught this year, just shooting for horns.

our lic. fees are to low and the number of wardens in the field during the big game season is a farce. our hunting privilege should not be influenced by politics. Decide how best to manage the herds and police the sports more and charge enough for the tags to cover it. People get used to almost anything and after a few years of doing things correctly they will stop complaining.

Hunters should have to take a readiness test every year or two just like a drivers test.

I support any increase in fees so long as its used to improve the herds and law enforcement.

Your allowed one animal a year what diff. does it make if you got it with a gun or bow.

Poor people have a right to hunt. increased cost for licenses is not fair. this is not just a rich mans sport. Question no. 8a really bothers me.

Don't change the archery season or tag prices on us hunters. Some of us work hard for what little we have and archery season gives us a chance to relax. If we have to choose between archery and rifle we may not be able to relax as much. If we cant afford the

tags there is no sense in even trying to enjoy the sports. I enjoy just being able to spend time in the country and archery season gives me a chance to enjoy it even more.

20. POINT REGULATIONS. COW/BULL OPTIONS.

I believe that people who draw cow elk permits should be restricted to hunting only the area where the permit is valid. Also I believe that branch antlered bulls should be on a "draw only" basis. They should be used for breeding as much as possible. Sort of a "highgrading" in its most natural form.

There is too much overgrazed elk winter range. There is too much pressure in rifle season by too many roads being left open. Spike bulls should not be killed under any circumstances. People that get cow tags should not be allowed to shoot a bull. Thank you for your efforts!

In regards to questions 6 and 7 my favorite elk area is 524. It's been closed for the past 5 seasons. The branched bulls have increased but I don't think closing it to archery had a significance. It was the branched antlered season that made it a success.

1) Some means are necessary to reduce numbers of non-serious archery hunters. 2) More money is needed to purchase winter range for elk, sheep, moose, and mule deer. 3) Elk and to some extent mule deer need to be managed to produce a better mature bull/cow ratio. I believe a branch antlered restriction is needed. 4) Outfitters should be given the preference on out of state permits.

I think archery hunters should be allowed to take either sex, inclusive. The district I hunt; you cannot take spike elk or muley bucks smaller than 4 pts. This greatly limits archery hunting chances, especially on mule deer. Also, if there were a late season (archery) added I would not mind paying \$8 - \$10 for an archery stamp.

It gets complicated having some districts closed to spike bulls. I favor allowing both spikes and branch antlered.

From talking to Game Wardens, I don't think the amount of animals taken by bow affects the animals population and I see NO reason to limit hunters to a bow only or rifle only hunting season. I am in favor of management to increase branch antlered bulls. And I think eliminating the harvesting of spike bulls would help. It seems 75% of my friends that killed elk this year killed spikes - make them illegal the first 3 yrs. and we'll have a bunch of smart mature bulls.

I think if somebody gets drawn for a cow elk they should not be able to shoot at a bull.

Your 2 weeks off rifle season is stupid. Leave it alone but go

with branched bulls all year and issue cow permits.

Why was area 281 closed to shooting spikes and area 293 was not?

If you want to help archery season you need to do some limiting on what is taken in rifle season. I feel that there are too many bulls in the spike and 2 or 3 point range being taken. We have very few mature bulls. I for one would quit hunting with the bow if I had to choose between rifle or bow.

Sure would like to see a branch antlered season only for a year or two. Not many branched bulls in my areas, 435 and 415.

Please let's not restrict bow season. Let's restrict rifle season. The damage being done during rifle season is amazing. Let's increase elk herds. Raise standards for all hunters. Require name and address on all arrows. Things are great in Montana compared to other states, let's keep it that way and try to keep improving. I feel the slaughter during rifle season is ridiculous. The bowhunter gets much credit for wounding animals, but facts show the numbers to be way higher for rifle hunters.

Is it possible to grow more elk in W. Montana? Why do we need one week either sex? Does this not limit elk number a lot? Go to a permit system for cows, a size system for bulls. The population should expand and be comparable to S.W. Montana. Please use me for any more polls you have.

The state of Montana needs to change the hunting regulations. Archery and rifle season - the bulls shot should be branch antlered only. In 3 - 4 years the state of Montana will see a great number increase of mature bulls and healthier elk herds.

I would like for mule deer rules to change so it would be 3 point bucks or larger so that young bucks get a chance to grow up.

I think area 324 should be opened to archery hunting on a drawing basis with cow tags and 4 point or better bulls only hunting allowed. Also some of the areas around the state could be done on this type of drawing for rifle also. I think this would increase the quality of the elk hunting overall.

Elk hunting was good this year but deer hunting is horrible. It is hard to tell if a mule deer is a four point. So you spend half an hour stocking and find out that isn't legal so you just wasted your time. All bucks should be legal during archery season.

I may not agree with restrictions placed on elk hunting in my hunting areas but I believe they are helping to rebuild the herds.

I would like to see spike elk legal to kill with a bow.

District 319 and some others are closed for spike bulls. I agree with this for rifle season but not during bow season. Why aren't all areas closed for spikes?

Thanks for asking. I do appreciate the work being done.

I feel the present season and regulations are fair and all my friends feel they are perfect. The only improvement that could be made is a increase in branch antlered bulls. The management actions that you listed sound like someone is trying to change something that there is nothing wrong with.

I believe there should be a 5 point or better limitation on bull elk, expecially during general season. You would accomplish both the increase of branch bulls and also allow everyone the opportunity to hunt. You don't need a permit system on bull elk (or deer as far as that goes). And, if it were done statewide there would not be a shift in hunting pressures.

If you haven't seen by now, I'm telling you that I am strongly opposed to a drawing system for our general big game. Who isn't after seeing the mockery of the drawing system for the moose, sheep and goat? The system that now allows one man to draw an unlimited number of tags is a crock! It should be a once in a life-time deal! It has been proven in other states and provinces that a 5 point or better system on bull elk works.

Part 2 #6 - Crossbow hunting for handicapped persons should be legalized.

Part 2 #8, i, - Upland bird hunters season should also close and reopen. Their shots are very upsetting to big game.

Part 3 - Elk populations are very poor the whole season and permit allotment system needs serious reconsideration, or possible closure. Montana could face serious hunting problems not unlike Colorado in the very near future. Poor quality bulls or no bulls all are not going to increase herds. Very restrictive regulations in a few districts will only increase pressure in another, decreasing out of proportion the mature animals capable of truly trophy proportions and sportable numbers.

Archery in Montana has provided me with many hours of recreation. I would like to see more branch antlered bulls and I believe if elk hunting were open only to branch antlered bulls there would be more of them because the spike bull survivale ratio is high when due only to natural causes.

I would like to see a B? head requirement of no less than 3

blades & though not referring to Archery Season, but rifle season that those drawing cow permits be required to shoot cows only thus not defeating the purpose of the cow permits to begin with.

I feel the branch antlered policy should be taken out of effect during Bow Season. I would have a full freezer if I had not passed up several excellent shots at spike bulls.

I wish our state would pass a law for just Branched antlered bulls in rifle season with cows also legal in bow season, if they would do that they could sell all the out of state tags they have call for then the outfitter might make a living also. Thanks for Asking.

Moussori Breaks hunting Districts need more cows taken & less bulls.

I hunt exclusively in district 380 until this year. I think archery hunters should be able to take any bull they chose.

To increase Trophy numbers eliminate hunting of spike bulls.

I think the 4 pt rule on deer in area 333 is stupid. I spend lots of time in those mts all summer. Lots of deer and big ones if you want them. No need for this law for archers. I'm quite happy with all other aspects as they are. I love to hunt.

Too much attention & killing of large bulls and buck deer have hurt the total population of the herds in our area -point from the start of Archery Season till the end of Rifle Season - I seen 93 head of Deer (95% mule) and only 9 bucks Aug 3x3 ldgst 5x5 I personally took a spike w? @ 6500' out of 3 bucks ldgst 4x4 in rifle season - No elk seen in Archery or Rifle Season - at present I have 11 cow elk feeding on my land - all are dry cows - only seen 3 calves last year out of apprx 75 head before & just after hunting season - Few Doe's with fawn approx 10% those did have twins however -

I personally feel that the pressure of too much Trophy hunting has seriously hurt the hunting in our area and that really hurts the meat hunters and some of these people really need the meat. Thank you.

In general I feel the archery season for elk is good. time of year is right - coincide with rut - and it is nice time of year to get out and enjoy the country. I feel that spike bulls should be legal during archery season. Most archery hunters will only take bigger bulls for trophy. I prefer to hunt for the enjoyment and the meat and being able to shoot all ages is important to me.

Rifle hunters have to hunt the species(sex) that they have drawn on special drawings.

We need to improve genetics & trophy animals within the herd and yet regulate to keep the meat hunters happy. Increase fees and no license sales after opening day. Cow permit holders must shoot a cow. Acquire more winter Range. Set hunting regulations as outlined below.

Archery Only Hunters (Elk) - open to either sex in all hunting districts applicable.

Archery-Rifle Hunters - During archery season restricted to Five Point Bulls or better (One antler). Certain areas open to antlerless depending upon management objectives. During rifle season subject to same restrictions as rifle hunters whether hunting with bow or rifle. One elk per season. License cost double that of archery only or rifle only with additional revenue going for winter range.

Rifle Hunters - antlerless by permit only. Season for bull elk restricted to spike bulls or bulls having five or more points on at least one antler. This would keep meat hunters happy as well as increase trophy animals in the herd thereby improving genetics! It would work!

One area I wish the F&G would consider is a m? to

- 1) Keep out-of-state Hunters coming to Montana on a Limited basis
- 2) make rules which would favor in-state-hunters

For example: restrict out of staters to Antlered Animals only with 4 pt Deer & Elk being the minimum. Save the cow Permits & any population control hunts for the in stater - the Montanans!

Special Cow Permits - Please consider alternating the years a successful drawer may Apply - ie: If I were to draw a cow permit in 1988 I would be inelegible to apply for a cow permit until 1990! I personally have drawn two permits in 13 years yet I know many who have had 8-9.

PS: Do you really give out moore permits on drawings?

Certain hard hunted areas desparately need tighter control on pressure. We also have witnessed many road closures that were totally disregarded, which obviously does elk herds no good. One suggestion I have is to require any one who draws a cow tag for general gun season to shoot cows only. Cow tags, if I'm not mistaken are meant to reduce a cow population, not bulls. It seems senseless to me to even draw cow tags, if people aren't required to fill them with cows. I think this survey is a good idea. Good job.

Bow hunter's should be able to hunt both spikes & branch antler bulls in area's were only one or the other is open during rifle season.

Dear Sirs, This comment is slightly off of the Archery subject But it is my opion during the general Rifle season that when the Elk quota has been reached, close down that erea completly!! Branch antlered Bulls are scarce enough!! Thank you.

I think the branch antlered law in our area will increase bull elk populations in some extend. But wonder how many will be killed during their 2-2 1/2 years of age.

There has become an increasing need to protect spike bulls during hunting season. I favor management actions s? as has taken place in the ELK horns. but lets not stop here. how about trying a district for 6 pt or better. hunters should have a anary of opportunities to choose from.

Close all hunting of spike elk - this will greatly increase the number of trophy bulls in the future. Close the early RIFLE season for elk during the rut. A bugling bull doesn't have a chance against a rifle.

I feel an early black powder season would be bad, very bad for elk populations. I would like to see entire state go to Branched antlered bulls and four pt. or better for deer. I strongly opose chooseing rifle or bow only.

380 had an excellent population of Branched Bulls this year Due to Branched only season in 1986. I think Branched only is a better idea than spikes only. other areas have proven it works - Also I'm a landowner in 380 who has never drawn a special Elk tag the chances of drawing a cow tag are much greater than those of Drawing a Branched Bull tag. How can you say that every few years I will have a chance at a branched bull

I think the archery season should be closed to herd bull's 5 point & over. There are too many dry cow's running around. When I see 16 cow's 2 calves and no bull's in a herd there's something wrong.

I think bulls with 4 points or better should be shot - anything smaller should not be shot - Even during rifle season
That way bulls have a better chance of becoming a trophy.

My opinion is: That there is a shortage of bull elk. I spent a total of 12 days hunting elk, both bow and rifle, and I saw about 100 elk. 1 branch, 3 spikes and the rest cows and calves. It also appeared to me that many cows did not have calves at their side. I did however have a cow permit which I filled. She way dry.

When hunters recieve special cow elk permits - cows should be the only legal elk for that hunter to harvest.

In genral the region game managers region 5 - are not responsive to trophy buck or bull areas - they have a penchant for wanting to shoot every horned animal in the region each year - both with rifle & bow. Region 510 has great potential - but they allow it

to be over hunted especially with rifle kills.

I'm in favor of more branch-antler bull areas to increase the number of branch antlered bulls and against the idea of shortening the hunting season by one week as a way of increasing the population of branch antlered bulls. I also think a person should have an elk or deer license before he or she can apply for special hunting permits. There are too many people putting in for special permits for all their relatives as a way of getting cow permits in the family. If they don't get a cow permit, they won't buy an elk permit. Some of the relatives who are successful in the drawing won't even go into the field to hunt, but will give the license to someone else to fill. This is a very common practice.

(Part III Question I) continued

This policy has seriously reduced the number & quality of bulls to properly maintain a good herd balance.

Have a branch antlered bull only season for rifle.

I think archery hunters should be allowed to hunt in any district they want. Also, I think that archery hunters should be allowed to hunt HD-600 series without having to sacrifice the opportunity for a cow elk tag in some other district. If an elk were to be taken, by bow that hunter would of course be ineligible for the cow.

I would like to see the regulations changed to make it illegal to kill spike bull anytime during archery or general season.

Make all elk hunting branch antlered ONLY

Have a point restriction on bulls in NW Montana for more mature bulls. It works!!

No grizzly bears in Cabinet Wilderness move them and do research in Bitterroot Selway Wilderness! I never got it by Feb. 15!

Good survey. I request that the need to increase Branch antlered bulls is important.

The general Average age in deer & elk, (males) has dropped dramatically over the last 10 years. A program to resolve this is badly needed.

I feel a 4 pt or better animal be the minimum for a buck or bull would help increase the Avg age.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions. I think that wlk #'s are generally up and there is an increase in the # of branched antlered bulls; I still would love to see the entire state become branched antlered only during the rifle hunt for the good of both archery & rifle hunters. Thank you very much.

Wish you would stop the ban on spike bulls. Bow hunting is hard enough without that.

The only complaint I might have is that areas where "Branch antlered bulls Only" is specified should be eliminated For archery season only. Any bulls should be legal.

With the Fish and Game Dept. shortening our elk seasons and implementing Bulls only or point restrictions I wonder if they are really trying to increase out elk herds or catering to a few people who want more trophy bulls.

I oppose the trend started in 380 that requires a permit to shoot a branch antlered bull during archery season... I don't believe that you are concerned with breeding but rather with trophy hunting. You could allow branch antlered bulls during archery season without a permit. A spike will not respond to a bugle like a full grown bull. You are ruining the best part of archery season.

Areas with low game count should use archery only i.e. #415,441,151 also give bulls to grow larger

I would definately like to see hunting of branch antlered bulls only to increase the population of larger bulls.

Please consider Branch Antler Season's for all areas, Also cow permit holders should be made to kill cows only This either sex make's it very tough on spikes. Give these young bulls a chance to live past 1 1/2 years. Also Branch Antler on deer why shoot spikes and 2 points?

We have to increase the male portion of our big game animals. There are not enough bigger bulls or bucks in our herds right now.

A limit or size of branch antlered Big game animals should be imposed. If no one was allowed to shoot animals with 2 points or lower it would increase our trophy hunting.

Please stop all bull hunting in area 333, when you see 400 cows and 5 or 10 rag heads something is defintily wrong.

I don't feel the whole of area 380 should be regucated based on one herd of Elk. The crow Creek side has one population. To base all Regs on one study group is short sighted, and Biases (sic) the study. quit shooting Bulls in the Elkhorns for a number of years or include the whole area for study.

Shorte season, no spikes

I think in some areas there should be only so many bulls shot or all areas should be drawn for on weather you can shoot cows or bulls.

The special antlered district like 380 are not fair to the Bow hunting population, I feel this phactic should be stoped now

Would like to see 314 made a branch antlered area the same as 301 because many of the elk in 301 move into 314 towards the latter part of the season.

I would like to see Branch Antler Bulls only in area 314 cut down on cow permits in 314 Rifle season Put in a late hunt with Bows for cows only area 314

Archers should be able to hunt Antlered bulls during the archery season. In area 380, the only hunters that had a Br. Antlered permit were Out Of State Hunters. I believe, as well as my hunting companions, that either you raise the out of state license fee or (either) they only hunt spikes and Bucks only (especially in 380)

I want area 423 to be branched antlered bulls only for both rifle and archery.

The taking of a cow spike or bull depend on the area and circumstances. If a bull was seen or heard in the area a cow or spike would be passed up. Other days I would not be opposed to taking a cow.

If Montana would go to a branch antler only during gun season it would drastically increase the branch antler bulls and quality of the hunting for both archers & gun hunters. Just look at what Colorado has done in 3 years.

I think your problem arise with rifle hunting not bow hunting. To many cow permits at least in mostall areas except Gardiner. The fish and game release some elk by Fortine, Montana.

I have friends up here. There were mostly cows but also a few big bulls. All a cow or bull hunting area. It was a slaughter. the fish and game releasted 27 elk first week 24 or 25 of them were shot within 5 miles of there release area.

It would have been a successful plant if it wasn't legal to hunt cows in that area. Fortine is north of White Fish. Unless it is a put and take like stocking fish in the Blackfoot R. or Wild Bill lake. I am not atall impressed with the over all elk count in Montana out side Yellowstone Park. Wyoming, Colorado and Idaho are actually better places for elk hunting. areas 101 and 110.

I would like to see Deer Season be 4 point or better, Elk hunter's be restricted to trails only, with all terrain vehicle's

they are running all over.

Also I would like to see a late season on Deer and Elk after Rifle season closes I do not want to see a choice between Rifle or bow.

The cow kill quota is to high. in all districts in the Augusta area

Bow hunting in Montana the way it is now, is perfect hunting. But I would suggest that we go to Branch Antlered Elk only, for Rifle season. Bow hunting doesn't have a very big impact on Elk as the Rifle season does.

If you plan any changes in involving whether to shoot spikes or branched antlered animals. Please allow the spikes to be shot and save the branched antlered animals

The one thing that really helped in area 333 was establishing a point requirement rule for both elk and mule deer. Although it makes it difficult to determine whether a mule deer is completely legal at a distance, I feel these laws have increased the larger bull/buck numbers I think these rules should be more widespread.

I think you are doing a good job for the Archery orientated hunter. I would like to see 2 years of season's, both Archery & General season, to be limited to 2 points or smaller for deer and spikes only for elk. To give the older animals a chance to breed larger young and more healthy animals.

I hunt whitetail deer around my property. This year I didn't hunt Archery as much because of a hectic work schedule. I would like to expand my archery to elk hunting if my time schedule would ever permitt. I would like to help in any way to keep quality hunting in Montana. I believe in the branched antler only system and cows issued by drawing.

Spike Bull Elk should be legal during archery season in area 320 also any Buck Deer should be legal during Archery season.

I would like to see archery season limited to cows or branch antlered bulls only -

As an Outfitter would like to see more Branch Antler or better area, would like to see either,-or archery and license increase. On the either-or issue the hunter could choose elk, deer or antelope for Archery or all species, however the ones he does not choose he could have the option of hunting with a rifle. Such as elk archery deer & antelope rifle - or any comb. within. I am looking foreward to the results of this survey.

Area #200-01 St. Regis Boyd Mt. has been my best areas since I was 13. Many young Bull's have been shot by Rifle hunters

holding cow tag's. This being season's from 1983. This area needs help from you - the 25 cow permit's brings more pressure on the spikes & 3 1/2 year old's then the cow's & calf's in the long run.

I hope the rummer I heard about making branch-antlered bulls only by permit in all regenes is false.

I support road closures as in the Gravellys and I support Elk antler regulations ie. Branch-Antler only however I would reccommend a brow-tine reg. which would greatly increase the branched spike population going into the next year, 25% I believe. Eye-guards (Brow-tines) only. No spikes, not even branched. Also I would love to see a few areas go 5x5 or better only. would increase trophies yet allow hunters to hunt.

I wish that during the deer season that harvested animals would be at least 3 pts on a side. White tail 7 Mule deer

No spike bulls should be harvested.

Spikes bulls are immature animals and never reach near their potential for being available animal for harvest. If a person wants elk meat so bad let him apply for a drawing in a cow elk area.

I want to thank the Dept. of fish, Wildlife & Parks, for the good work that they are doing. And if there is any thing I can do to help them, Please let me know. Thanks again.

I would like to say one more thing if I may. Shooting of calves should be stopped, in Bow season and rifle season. also stop shooting of spike Bulls after cow season is over in rifle season - I will shut up now - Thank you -

Having requirements for branch antler elk and 4 point deer takes something out of the archery hunt. I feel that with archery (not gun) these requirements should be waived.

I would like to see a 4-point or better law applied to all deer in Mt. That would let some of the little bucks grow up to be trophies. I hunt mostly for enjoyment and had plenty of shots at does, spikes & 2 points. I was looking for a big buck. But I still enjoyed the "87" hunting year.

Should make a law so a branched bull can be shot with bow in spike only districts.

Protect spikes to increase larger bull pop.

I think if you wnt to branch antler bull state wide for gun season you could spread out the hunting pressure. I have many good memories of hunting the River years ago which I feel now is ruined. Percentage wize to many people hunt the river because it

does offer Big Bulls.

I think the amount of trophy animals ie (elk, deer) have significantly decreased in my 16 yrs that I've been hunting in Montana. Due to the buck only law in alot of areas. This causes your first or second yr. hunters to shoot a small buck thus decreasing the proportion of male species. The male species life span is shortened tremendously thus not allowing them to mature into trophies.

I would like to see the Bear Tooth Game Range behind Holter Lake become a brach antler Bull during General hunting. There are to many spikes taken every year. Give them a chance to get Bigger and maybe Trophy size.

if you are worried about the spike elk population? I would restrict the gun season to branched antler animals. I believe bow hunters shoot at what ever is the closest animal, cow spike, or bull. I am very satisfied with the bow season except that I believe we must have more public access To out public lands and stop private owers or guides from blocking access.

I believe it should be illegal to shoot a spike or a "y" bull either by bow or gun. All bulls should be limited to 3 point or greater.

3 problems-

1-disproportionate harvest of bull elk by bowyers.

2-Too many haphazard bow shots

3-Enough is enough or hunt one way or another

3 ideas--1) We must address the bull to cow elk ratio. An idea for bowhunting-kill a bull this season, hunt cows only next 3 seasons.

2) Rudimentary bow accuracy test. Perhaps-5 arrows at 20yds w/10" circle 4 must score?

3) If we are to continue our generous seasons (I hope we can!), let's reduce pressure by hunting one season or another.

Archery hunting is the best hunting. Would choose it over rifle if had too! I'd does need restrictions such as bulls only. Deer open.

I feel it is rididculous to protect spike bulls and not 2 point bulls. They are the same age class and probably genetically superior to the spikes as future trophy animals. Colorado's 4 pt. or better rule is much more logical the Montana's no spike rule. For rifle hunters I'm sure it's much easier to discern the difference between a raghorn 4 or 5 pointer and a "Y" than it is to tell the difference between a spike and a "Y". (3 pointers

are almost non-existent and are "Y's" with a browline).

I think the state had better do something quick on this either sex hunting and every 4 pts. or better or there won't be anything to hunt. I've argued this point since "74", I thought I was right then and I still do. This includes rifle season also.

I think a move that would help elk numbers and bull cow ratio, would be to stop the shooting of spike bulls. The bulls would all breed one season that way. I see a lot of dry cows during the season.

I believe spikes should be closed to rifle hunting which would increase the # of branched bulls for both rifle and archery. We need to weed out the non serious archer.

The elk herd in Region I seems to be in trouble. Many corrections have been proposed however the gun cow season continues in an area that could support many more elk. The older I get the more I only hunt for trophy animals but those days seem to be disappearing.

Part III. Elk hunting

1) I feel that in this part of the state, (Zone 1), that the cow season is seriously overharvesting the herd. In the last 5 years, all of my favorite areas have noticeably fewer elk. (The North Fork and South Fork of the Flathead, primarily.) Hunting pressure here is heavy, the seasons are way too long, and the open cow season serves to keep the population seriously or excessively cropped. Trophy heads are also scarce. I would recommend the following steps be taken.

1. Shorten archery season
2. Make hunters chose between archery and gun.
3. Shorten gun season (for elk).
4. Harvest branch antlered bulls only, (except by special permit).
5. Eliminate cow season, (except by special permits good only in a specific zone.

If we are issued one deer A tag. We need a Dec. mule deer hunt for 4 point ore better.

Just a few comments on bow hunting for deer. Seems to me it would be better to enable hunters to shoot a doe with bow, plus shoot a buck with the gun, instead of having a 2 week doe season.

That is if deer populations are high enough.

The archery season is fine, but I think the branched antlered bulls in the 100 district are way down. I understand they are going to shorten the season 10 days in that district. Why don't they limit the hunting to only branched antlered bulls and leave the spikes alone!!

I really enjoy bow hunting but I feel that when bulls are taken it should be branch antlered only. If bow hunters would like to continue hunting cows that's fine as long as the kill rate is considered when distributing cow permits. I also feel branch antlered bulls should apply to rifle hunters also. We have to do something to get bigger and more bulls.

Cow permits in 140 should be stopped-your killing all the elk-there's not many left.

We also really should have only one season for all game. The hunter can use rifle, bow, black powder, as one prefers.

I can not believe that for the areas to hunt in 101 and 100 they're are so few elk. Rifle season and killing cows stinks. Keep this policy up and they're won't be anything left here in area 100 and 101. I guide in the fall and work year round logging. We're losing it. I spend every weekend all year round in the woods, photographing etc. and it's bad, real bad. I'd like to see every gravel and dirt road closed to vehicles.

The areas I've hunted have a drastic lack of mature bulls. This year area 215 went to branched antlered bulls only which was a help but it will take several seasons to see if this has helped the dense population. With the increased pressure I believe many of these areas are needed. I also believe that bow hunters should have a better chance at attaining the how to get tags like sheep and Mt goats. Maybe a percentage of these could be for bow hunters.

It has been my experience that we are seeing more elk, more bulls and big bulls in the last 5 yr. I feel that a lot of this is a result of less elk taken during the rifle season probably because of poor hunting conditions. I am beginning to think that we could be on the verge of having too many elk and may see habitat damage if we see a normal to bad winter conditions maybe more cow permits should be given during the rifle season and those who draw a cow permit should be required to take only a cow!! Maybe

we could open more roads and access areas to get the people and the elk spread out more.

I would like to see branch antlered the only legal bulls to shoot.

I love what you have done with area 333, by making it branch antler only and 4 pnt bucks or bigger the increase in large bulls and bucks is amazing. This rule should include archery season also. I hope you leave it this way forever!

I feel there should be more pressure put on the cows and calves rather than the big herd bulls before there isn't any herd bulls left to breed all the cows for quality elk.

I would like too see the constant change from year to year from spike to branch antlered bulls in my hunting area 380.

Support 8e but archers should not be the only ones to donate \$2 all hunters should. Both my wife and I had to pass up shots at (illegal) spike bulls. We would like spikes legal.

There should more time to take cows.

1) Since there has been so much concern over the shortage of trophy bull elk, we should put a limit on the amount of outfitting businesses-to level off the amount of hunter overcrowding. Also, 2) areas like the Beartooth game range near Holter Lake should be either permit only or branch antler only because this area is far too overcrowded with hunters. I have seen some sad looking slaughters there.

3) 4 point of better buck deer hunting should be in a lot of areas.

I believe there should be no hunting of spike bulls (both archery and rifle) in the entire state. I still want the opportunity to hunt both archery and rifle.

I would like to see bull elk killed not more than 2 weeks of the archery season and cows allowed the full archery season. More elk wounded in archery season than in rifle season. I have friends that have wounded 2 or 3 bulls and they are excellent shots on targets.

I don't think there's a problem with our archery season's except that we need more branch antlered areas for archery and rifle season.

I believe archery should be able to harvest either sex irregardless of species hunted.

Feed is the factor that determines the movements of the elk. Not the hunters. We should let the spikes grow into branch antlered bulls.

No-shooting of spike is the best law I've seen for some time. Should be in all dist.

In general it is a very good hunting experience but I really think that all south west Mt. should be branch antler bull.

Over all I am satisfied with archery options in Montana. Hunt both rifle and bow, but I would be I favor of a post season hunt for bow or the option of harvesting a deer especially whitetail in both seasons

I generally feel that nothing should be done to change archery hunting in Montana. Montana offer excellent opportunity and present seasons and regulations should be left unchanged.

The archery season is just fine the way it is. Please don't screw it up!

I feel the bow hunting is in good shape. Although it may be extended to a longer season.

The system overall is very well managed. Don't change.

In the 261 district It's hard to get access to whitetail. Its hard to hunt 50 acres with 50 hunters. There's not to many hunters, just not enough land to hunt. You can't do anything about that. That just seems to be the biggest. Archery problem with me and most bowhunters. I don't see any need for any changes.

I would like to keep the season just like it is there does not need to be anytime between season because you can shoot at elk with a bow in the same place day after day and it will not spook them like a rifle would and I think that the outfitters get too many out of state licenses for there hunter and that there is to many out of state hunters.

I enjoy archery hunting just as it is now. My two sons who are college students don't leave for school until about the 20th of Sept. so we have a couple of weekends to hunt together. It is also a nice time of the year because of the mild weather.

The archery season as it is now is fine. Concerning question 8e instead of raising the stamp to \$8 take \$2 out of the six.

I see the point of this survey and my opinion is if it ain't broke don't fix it. The system now works fine so just leave it alone.

The only thing or way to help, is sometimes just to leave things the way they are. I myself have been bow hunting only a couple of years, and I like it just the way it is.

I enjoy a long archeyr season. It's an excuse to get out of doors and enjoy the fall time of the year. I always see elk. I've had ample opportunities to shoot cows at less than 10 yds. but I am not interested in obtaining a feather for my cap. Cow kills should be regulated an drawn for through fish and game.

I think there should be a state law for antlered bucks (whitetail or Mulie). That no bucks less than 4X\$ should be killed. I could have shot small bucks everytime otu, but I don't find it very rewarding. Thanks for caring MD of FW&P.

Ban all aerial hunting more cow permits available. Branched antler bulls only!

I think that more branch antlred bull season would benifit hunting elk for rifle or bow. Bow hunters would here more bugling and rifle hunters would have a better opportunity to bag a bull. I also think that the majority of gated roads should be shut from sept 15 on instead of Oct 15, to releive pressure on

elk in rut.

To many spike bulls shot during general season.

I feel that elk management could be improved by having drawings for bull elk as well as cow elk. The new "spike" law is good, but there is still a large lack in bull elk. Especially in area 319. I haven't seen a branched bull in 319 in 5 years. Though I did get a spike in "86".

I would like too see district 435 branch antler bull only during the rifle season.

Generally in my hunting district (200) only serious hunters hunt there. The existing road closure is a definat benifit for big game. But the continued stress on bulls only has decreased the bull population and are experiencing a large number of "open" cows without calves.-Issue more cow tags may help take pressure off of bulls for a year or two!

I think dist. 380 should be opened to branch antlered bulls by archery only. I agree with the drawing for permit for rifle season. But I don't think archers are going to make an effect on elk herds by taking branch bulls. Not that many will be taken.

Make spikes un shootable period-will give better trophy average and leave mor eyoung bulls for breeding. Put way less pressure on bugling season. Extend whitetail season.

Elk are like people in that they need experience to become better at their job. Close more areas around Helena for spikes for both archery and rifle. Making people choose between archery and rifle would do more to improve the quality of archery hunting then anything. I would like to see an area for archery only.

I feel strongly that we need to protect spikes. I realize there would be problems involved. But in the long run this system would result in the most carry-over of 1 1/2 yr. olds.(bulls)

Also, why not instead of a post-season archery hunt. Have a one or two week primitive weapons season. Alowing bows, crossbows, and black powder. Sell hunters an additional license, thus increasing revenue, instead of decreasing it, which would happen if hunters were restricteed to either rifle or bow. If I hunted

with rifle only, I would quit buying archery stamps.

I also think shortening general season is a bad idea, also causing fewer license sales, and decreasing quality of the hunt

I wouldn't mind seeing a branch antlered bull season for entire state during general season. But am strictly opposed to shorting the season. It might take two or three years to see some results, but I think it would be worth it.

I would also like to see more roads closed. But I would also like to see the hunter have the opportunity to retrieve any downed animal with a snowmobile or a all-terreian vec. after noon hour providing no gun is being carried. This law is in effect during the Gallatin late. Not everybody can afford horses.

(b) only branch bull's should be killed maybe go to 4 pt or better. I feel that something has to be done with the coyote population in the CMR, maybe not so much as for the elk population, but definatly for the deer population.

I think elk should still be protected until they are at least branch antlerd elk. The bull population is getting better, but they still need more time.

I think that we sould go to branch antlered bulls during regular season. Have it so if you draw a cow tag you must kill a cow nothing else.

And I think that during the season for deer we sould go to 4 point or better bucks in some areas a antler bucks in others. Mule deer have been on a decline in my area for quiet some time. I think that they kill to many does and yearling deer at the first of the season. We sould not allow that eight day doe season. If they think the does need to be shot have the season at the end of the season instead of at the front. Go to a doe permit like elk but if you get one you have to kill a doe.

Trophy bull elk populations are very low. There are also many cows that do not have calves. People who have drawn cow tags should not be allowed to kill Bulls, & it should be branch antlered bulls only for a while as well. Antelope populations are good in Big Hole & mule deer populations are increasing.

I would like to see the bull population in the Gardiner area rise. I soend more than a considerable amount of time in the backcountry in the Fall and Spring and from what I have observed, the bull population has diminished greatly in the last 6 or 7 years. Every year I see more herds without branch-bulls. In the spring I find less and less dropped antlers.

I feel all of the little Belt mountains should go to branch antlered bulls only.

I feel that all licenses should be bought B-4 anyone could apply for special permits and B-4 the hunting season opens.

We need to get on a permit basis for cow elk during the rifle season. I think the number of cow elk taken by archery hunters is not significant enough to limit the bowhunter to any either sex regulations

I think a better way of up grading trophy Elk wuld be to issue cow permits for archery only and allow a permit hunter an added two weeks to hunt either Pre or Post. But I am not saying to cut of Rifle season permit holders either. Another alternitive I think might work would be to increase Rifle season cow permits to cut down on Bull pressure and when you get a cow permit that is all you can shoot is a cow to many people I know can use the meat and not care about horns. and there are those who get the permit's and if they get into a herd instead of shooting a cow shoot the bull instead. I personally have been putting in for cow permits since it began and haven't drawn yet and you can bet if I had a cow permit it would be filled before and thought of a bull

You said this was a survey, but didn't say how it would be used. Are more restrictive regulations on the horizon? If they are, say so!

I would like to see some districts designated "trophy bull" where the harvest of spike bulls is controlled by permit and then you can't shoot a bull again until it;s a mature 6 point.

There should be special permitts issued for branch-antlered bulls to help keep the population of big bulls up

I think that there are alot of unskilled & unpractised archers in the woods. Granted the hardest thing is judgment of distance. I think there is definate reduction of local herds. Especially because of unused cow permits during rifle season & the amount of spike bulls taking everybody wants a bull! I say cow permits take only cows & no more spike bulls in low populated areas.

I hunt in areas 333,320 they are branch antler for elk and four point or better for deer over last 3 years have seen more nice Elk and deer in there area since change. Would like to see state wide or at least an or around forest service land and BLM land.

I would like to see more areas managed for larger bulls during rifle seasonas more elk are killed then. Too many small bulls were holding large herds of cows during the rut.

I feel the seasons are quite liberal which is great. I dread an either-or season because I like to hunt with the rifle also.

There should be a spike closure even during archery. Many more roads should be closed to protect animals and the license fees could be increased greatly. Consider a bull elk season (archery) closure every other year to increase bull numbers.

I would like to see a branch antler rule on either sex either species Deer for rifle season.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE BRANCHED BULL ONLY AREAS - I WOULD LIKE TO SEE FEE GO UP TO KEEP NON-SERIOUS BOWHUNTER OUT OF MY WOODS.- AN ACCURACY TEST WOULD BE GOOD TOO - 5 ARROWS IN A 10" CIRCLE AT 35 YDS?

I've hunted areas 321, 332 for the past 38 years. I've seen the Elk herd come form a small amount to a booming herd with trophy bull in a good amount down to maybe seeing 3-5 a year.

I strongly support a branch antler season only in these areas.

we need to issue cow only permits if a person gets a cow tag that is all he can kill. Also go to 5 point or better on bulls.

no more of the spikes only areas-(stupid management)

There have been to many Bulls & Bucks taken from our area I would like to see either sex hunting in bow or gun but let the hunter hunt in his own area that he holds his residency in if he wants to hunt a different area let him apply for a \$2.00 leaving for the area he wants. area 250 was way over loaded many people from other areas as it is every year

Im not in agreement with killing our prize bulls. They are the best geneticly and will produce the best, strongest offspring trophy hunting should pay extra for large (herd) bulls (6 points and over) all terrain vehicles destroy habitat (cause erosion in fragile soils) and disturb wildlife. in their sanctuaries with their noise.

I feel it would be to the best interests of our elk herds in Montana to go to more branch antler areas, to many spikes are being taken. The idea of going to a late hunt with bow, after general season, has always been my favorite. Allow the animals to be left alone during the rut.

I feel that the best way to improve elk hunting in Montana, is to change the first week of rifle season practice of shooting at every elk you see, until you see one drop. Don't open elk season (gun), until the deer hunters have one week in the field-also any bull should be branch antler-also would like to see more hunter surveys. Local & state wide.

With the growing numbers of Elk being harvested by archers in 600 dist. (South Valley) I would like to see the rifle season to be

eliminated this would produce one of the best trophy Elks hunting areas in the state & nation this country is to accessible for a rifle bull season.

elk hunting by bow should be permit only to limit pressure on easy access areas. Bow hunting should also only be limited to branch antlered bulls only.

I think you should be able to shoot spike bulls during archery season, but not during rifle season

I feel one of the first things done to improve elk populations should be to make it illegal to take a bull with less than four points. Even during rifle season. A guy that hunts alot can easily fill his wives tag and others, including his own. with a spike bull or a forked horn bull. I know people that do year after year during rifle season. After about 4 years of 4 point or better I think there would be some trophy bulls.

Also I dont think Indians should be able to kill everything that moves off their reservations. They should have to abide by every rule that pertains to Fish & Game that the rest of us has to. After all if it were'nt for the game management and dollars of the real sportsman there would be no game at all. Nothing makes me madder than to have an Indian trophy hunt my area after the season closes (and it happens)

I would like to see it passed, that made it mandatory for persons who have drawn cow tags to kill cows only. I would also like to see hunting in & around the Big Hole (area 321 & 333) go to branch antlered bulls only for a few years. Enforcement would be difficult, but these moves would increase elk quality and quantity, as well as increase the breeding population. I have found an outstanding number of young healthy cows without calves. Cows with calves are aproximately 40% of the total. Herd bulls are scarce, and the younger bulls are doing what breeding is being done. Many spikes and raghorns are being killed late in rifle season, and its effect is becoming apparent. These young bulls are still with the cows & cold weather brings them into easy access areas. Archery hunting, however, has little effect on populations. I've also noticed an increase in mule deer populations this year, & I'm glad to see it.

- 1) I think the 100 cow permits in the 140 area is useless waste of elk.
- 2) I notice alot of forest service land with private property signs on it especially in 293 area.
- 3) A branched antlered only would be a good idea for better herd size and bull cow ratio. During general rifle season
- 4) Changing the 170 area to a rifle area is absolutely stupid

If any management decisions are made that do not protectthe spike bullyyou must have your head in the sand.

I suggest that hunters who draw cow tags in rifle season should shoot a cow - not bulls. Fine him if he shoots a bull.
- Don't shoot spikes - Bow or rifle season - Branch antler only.

I think that all SPIKE BULL ELK hunting should be stopped, both archery and rifle, I think the quality of trophy bulls would be increased, in time. And it would also help in the breeding of the cows with more and bigger bulls.

the one thing I think could be done to help our hunting is to stop killing spikes. When the cow drawings went into effect it made too many bull hunters only - taking too many young bulls out of the herd.

I believe the Dept should cut out cow & doe killing
A good rancher, dont go out in the barnyard & shoot all his cows and still stay in business

Elk-Branch antler only seems to be improving the herd. Area 332 mature bulls numbers are dwindling. Close areas to archery on a rotating basis. (such as 324).
Close areas to all 3 point Mule deer or smaller, on a rotating basis. People should be required to buy tags before opening day to prevent opportunists shooting an animal, then buying a tag. I personally would prefer to hunt elk with a bow and deer with a rifle

I believe that hunting regulations and districts were a lot less confusing before the FW & Parks became so big! Prices have gone up too much, and landowner regulations are horrible and NOT the hunters fault as so say FW & Parks. I've talked to ranchers and they are mad at the state of Mt. Also why don't they change the laws so that if a person draws a cow permit for firearms season of course they have to take a cow! You people spend money for biologists to determine that x amount of cows needd to be taken out of area x then you allow these permits - but if a person has a choice they are going to take a bull and pass up the cows also this method of having to take a cow only would cut costs of handling all these applications -Thankyou

Need more winter surveys of elk. District 435 should have rifle season limited to branch antlered bulls only. And cows should be not shot with a bow during bow season.

Secondly, the number of cow permits for rifle season should be lowered due to the loss of wounded elk (cows) during bow and rifle season of "87".

I would like to see branch antlered elk only and 4 pt. mulie or better laws be in effect state wide.

I would like to see a law that permits hunters to follow wounded game on to posted land.

I would like to see some archery only areas in the Whitehall area.

I believe that there is rool for larger elk herds in the west side of the state. I believe that all types of elk hunting (rifle-archery) should help increase the herds possibly by restricting some either sex seasons.

Because of limited archer elk harvest, I would like to see archers excluded from recent no-spike or no-branch-antlered rules being implemented in various zones. Archer harvest shouldn't significantly affect bull-cow ratios.

21. LATE HUNTS.

There is a high percentage of elk being killed with fire arms in archery season, wounding and not finding is too high, bugle hunting is great sport - but at the expense of the elk. Due to excess roads, habitat loss and hunting pressure, bow season should be put after gun season, cooler weather, tracking snow. This would weed out the non-serious bow hunters (eliminates the "ace in the hole" buffer gun season offers).

Would like to see a late elk hunt with bows.

I would like to see the pre gun season shortened by two weeks to allow a two week post gun season hunt.

In area 170 I heard they were not going to have the late season bow hunt for deer. I oppose this. In some areas I heard they were going to make it cows only during the rut for elk why not branch antlered and cows.

It would be nice to have a after general season archery hunt for two weeks.

If the number of animals were available it would be good if archers only could receive an archers deer tag or extra tag for archery hunting besides the deer A tag for either rifle or archery.

Again I would like to see the late season open statewide and not limited to specific districts. Bow hunters don't make that much impact on deer populations!

If you sold separate tags for archery it would increase money and also allows hunters to hunt both ways. If limiting tags to do this then I also approve of that. A post season archery season would also be great, I like hunting in snow.

Rather than lengthening or shortening the season - maybe split the season with some time after the rifle season. There would be less pressure during breeding time and some cold weather hunting for archers.

1) I do not think that we should have any nonresident hunters in Montana.

2) Big game area 324 should not be open to archery hunting as the archers will take all the big bulls and the rifle hunters won't have any in a few years. The FW & P made a mistake opening it in 1988 season. As long as the FG & P are goin to open it - that's where I'll be hunting because everyone else will be.

3) A lot of ranchers would let bowhunters into their field after the season is the Fish and Game would organize a hunt. Most don't like rifle hunters around cattle but don't mind bowhunters.

Bumpersticker - Remember ask first to hunt and fish on state lands.

Bowhunting in Montana is excellent. I wish we could have a late season hunt after the regular season. This would let us hunt more trophy animals in deep snow.

I very much enjoy bowhunting in Montana. I am very concerned because of warm weather and lack of snow to track possible injured animals. In N.D. majority of bow hunting is done after rifle season. For this reason thus we lose less animals.

Some areas should be limited to archery only in order to increase elk numbers. These areas could also carry a late hunt in order to hunt in cooler weather and better tracking conditions. Namely eastern Montana areas 700, 410, 623, 622, 631, 632.

Would like to see more of the Porcupine Creek late hunt area opened up. Always elk on the other side of the creek but they won't cross it much with any pressure on them.

I think that allowing a couple of areas for late hunting would be great but elk hunting with a bow is best during the rut or just before. Maybe allow some areas where concentrations are excessive to be hunted with a bow late in season. For example, I just returned from a hunting trip with my brothers from the Gardiner area - rifle hunting success was at 7%. Because of the weather being nice, the elk never crossed the river. Maybe in cases where hunts of this type are held allow hunters to return later to shoot elk either with a bow or rifle. I'm not in great favor of the continual changes in what you are allowed to shoot in certain areas. In bow hunting I feel fortunate if I get close enough for a shot. Please don't change the chance for either sex.

I believe a post rifle season archery hunt would have little impact on game populations, but would afford the die-hard archery hunter more hours of enjoyment of the sport.

Would like to see a late archery season.

I think the Fish & Game should open more areas (after the general season) for bowhunter who didn't get there deer or elk.

Would like to see the season expanded even a little earlier in the season. Also would like to see special late season hunts for Bow only, In this area, not all across the state.

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Lengthen bow season & shorten gun season. To extend bow season to two weeks after gun season seems fruitless, by then the game is so spooked getting to within 40 yds is ridiculous.

In General M dep FW&P handles the archery season very well. However I believe a extended deer season after the general rifle season would allow for an extra recreational opportunity for the dedicated resident bowhunters.

There could be an area open for late archery elk hunting in our area-313.

I think archery is okay But I would like more late season's like down at Steenville! With better access to private land like strictly walk in's to help hunter and landowner relations.

I would favor shortening the season by one week to allow 2 wks prior to general season if 1 or 2 weeks is added as a late hunt.

I think archery hunting is more sportsmanlike. Id like to see a later seasons. I like the regular season as it stands. I believe the rifle hunters and out of state hunters should be regulated more if their is the need to make cuts.

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actually taken by archery - and since the "being out there" is so "good" an experience, I would like to have more time to hunt. Please consider the Post-Rifle season. Thanks for your good work.

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I think when they open the late archery hunt in Porkipine Creek we should be able to hunt the North & South side of the drainage. Instead of just the north side.

I would like to see a archery season after the gun season!

It would not hurt if the season started two to three weeks later.

Lengthening archery season would greatly enhance the selectivity and general quality of hunting. This could also reduce conflicts with grouse hunting. I would recomend one week earlier and a post gun season to also allow bow hunting with a possiblility of snow conditions.

If the archery season could be lengthened - Post season, then I would be very much in favor of requiring a choice of firearm or archery hunting instead of the present opportunity to participate in both. Interesting questionare - I enjoyed it.

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If there is no snow in the area I hunt (Augusta) the ELK won't

come far enough out of the Bob Marshall for a person with no horses to go after them this is why I'm in favor of post season hunt also animals wounded during rifle season can be retrieved at the post season late hunt.

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I think archery season in areas around 631 should open later, as it is usually very hot & isn't worth hunting because of no off road travel to retrieve a kill. Then there is a good chance elk will spoil should be allowed off road to retrieve kill or open season later. Also I would like to see a "Be present drawing" for the area you want to hunt.

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Needs to be late season

A need for hunting Districts that are Archery only for rut hunting.

A need for late season hunts in the East part of the state maybe a Jan 15-Feb 15 buck only!

Buy adding a 2 week Post Season Archery hunt, Archers may be able

to 1) have tracking snow for blood & elk trails 2) Hopefully be quiter in the timber (moisture) 3) Better visibility (less foilage)

I think they should have a late bow season from like Dec 15-Jan 10. I don't think the population would get hurt. The success rate is only 12% in Montana with a bow.

would like to see more late hunts and a less hunting with vehicles.

The two things I would most like to see changed are: a post firearms season (particularly for deer) and the opportunity to take deer with a firearm & archery both.

It seems like more of the areas open for late season elk hunts could be archery only. I only know of one late season archery hunt which is Porcupine Creek in the Gallatin Canyon.

I would like to see a late season Mule Deer Hunt in Dec. for your "A" Tag if not filled.

Generally - I'd like to see longer Archery-only seasons and/or more Archery only districts. (longer seasons meaning late hunts, but not necessarily General Archery Season) Also, I'd like to see Bowhunter ranks policed some way - through Bowhunter Education or other means - to protect Bowhunter image in general. All in all, I feel Bowhunters are better hunters & sportsmen and care for our natural resources and wildlife more than the average "Rifle hunter." Most Bowhunters would agree with me and be willing to police thier ranks.

In 1987 I hunted all year Archery & General, with my bow. I like to hunt and generally pass up a dozen shots each year that I feel are "iffy". Still, I feel very successful at Bowhunting. I would like to see increased opportunity to hunt - especially a late season for Deer & Elk - for serious Bowhunters. Thanks

I feel post season hunt during years of low to moderate kill during rifle season would give the hunters a better chance for success with less animal losses due to snow cover.

I would like to hunt elk in a season after regular season.

Would like to see extended seasons in Dec. for Bowhunters and we diffenitly need a BOWHUNTERS EDUCATION COURSE!

A late season hunt during time school is out would be greatly appreciated - between Christmas & New Year Allow parents to hunt w/children who are students

Allow teachers an opprotunity

Whitetail deer would be able to stand the pressure.

I would not like to see the Archery season changed from Sept. during the Bugling season.

I would like to see more late hunts for bows in areas where the harvest was not met, and elk are effecting ranches.

Hunting with a Bow is more of a challenge then an Rifle. You have to be a lot closer, and more sure of a shot, You only get one chance.

The issue of Late Season (late hunts) for Archery only could put more hunters in the Field, & if by Issuing late season "Tags" more money for DNR.

I & most of my friends tend to trophy hunt during Archery season & meat hunt during general season.

Opening up some areas with large populations of a given species for a one to two week late season say mid Dec. would be great.

I prefer to hunt in the snow & cold

Isolate certain districts for a given species - make it either sex and limit the length of the extra season.

I would like to see a Dec. or Jan. archery hunt for unsuccessful archery hunters with archery stamp already in possession.(no sales for late hunt) My business does not allow me time to hunt in the fall.

The season generally begins when its still too hot. Push all seasons back a couple of weeks for less loss of meat, quieter hunting and more snow for the rifle hunters.

Elk season (archery) should start Oct 1st no sooner - 1st Let mature bulls get some non-disturbed breeding in. 2nd weather is starting to cool down - snow in high country so meat care is better. Most elk killed & left over nite & next partial day - alot of sour wasted meat. 3rd Run a split season First season Oct 1st 3 weeks - Second Dec 1st 2 weeks 4th Archery Pressure in the North Western Montana in my opinion isn't over pressure. Elk numbers are up. Reasons: I Rifled hunted 28 days walked about 240 miles and hunted Districts: 100,101,103,121,122 and in each districts I hunted at least 2 drainages. There was a Total of 8 people (including myself) I hunted elk with we saw 21 Bull elk alone - I saw 7 my self. I was at Jerry Brown's public meeting.

Being Biological doesn't mean you know it all. As I looked around the room, the people there were the consistant hard core elk hunters. I listened & talked to about 40 of them and the number's of Bull elk they each saw numbered from 2-14 each and Brown's pushing 3 per 100 cow ratios down our throats. 5th The betterment of the elk & hunters. The changing of hunting season only where truly needed. Not for a gain of the chosen few. I'm for transplants in elk herds for new blood I could go on for hours on my favorite subject and there is alot of us here. If there is any changes to be made let it be, for the Montana Resident Hunter who lives & loves this land most. Thanks.

I would like to see more post season hunts for deer. in more of the areas where they are over populated. If the price of a archery license goes to \$20. it should allow g? to take a deer with both a bow and a rifle if the procedure stage the same.

Generally speaking the archery season is fine. I would like to see a late season archery hunt. The first of the season the weather is too warm. I will not shoot at an animal I can't get out if I think it will spoil. We usually back pack in 5-6 miles.

Both archery hunting and general rifle hunting could be improved by starting each season two week later and maintaining current durations (with break between) to take advantage of weather patterns and game movement.

Archery season should be extended after rifle season
Should be unlimited non resident archery licenses for Elk-Deer-Antelope

This year was an unusual year, I live in district 227, and that is where I do all of my hunting. Years like this, where it is so dry, I would like to see a post season archery hunt take place, It was almost impossible to sneak up on anything unless you got lucky, Because of the noise.

I would like to see more archery late hunts, like in Big Sky, for deer & elk.

I would support late season archery hunts in over populated areas, like that in porcupine game area South of Bozeman.

I feel a late archery season after riffle season would increase the chances of getting a trophy buck with a bow.

The only complaint I have is I feel there should be a late archery season for Big Game.

We should have late season elk hunts and Deer hunts more in districts 415, 441 or any where in the state. We should leave archery for bulls only.

I would like to see an after-rifle-season deer hunt with bow in area 312; starting right after rifle season ends.

I would love to Bow hunt Deer after the gun season & I wish you could get a buck with the bow & Gun each season. I feel the bow hunter is pentelized, every year you pass up alot of decent bucks because you only have one "A" tag to kill & you want to make it a good one or wait until gun season, by then it is even harder.

A split season for archery might be considered so that archers

have both the quiet beginning & the cool, scattered hunts. Rifle season would, of course, be in the middle. Also late hunts for heavy populated areas. Most farmers prefer archers to riflers; so is my experience.

I would like to see the bow hunters get a chance at the late elk hunt at 313 near Gardener.

Would like a late season for elk.

Elk hunting with a bow is set up real good and could be better if a 2 wk post season hunt would be available to unfilled tags and with previous archery stamps before the season deer should have a separate tag instead of using your "A" tag on archery. I mainly hunt for the meat and an "A" tag on a doe doesn't seem fair.

I feel a late deer season is needed. The deer population is hardly effected by archery hunters.

I would really like to see a late deer season if possible after the gen. season is over-because of their rut and tracking and trailing. Also I would like to see a cros bow used for the handicaped only if they can't draw a bow by special permit issued by MT Fish and Game office Only

With the comment on extending the season I would like to see a late season archery hunt like for bulls only.

Special late season hunts in the Gallatin (Where there are elk) and in Gardner for bow only could easily be allowed without harming the elk herds.

Less cow permits-Especially in NW MT. No open season on cows. More control and restriction on indian hunting for mosse, elk and deer-esp. in N.W>

Special archery drawings for goat, sheep, moose, antelope. Raise fees for all special hunts and special permits. I would pay 250.00 for even archery only tag.

Would like to see two extra weeks added to the archery hunt after a two week break after rifle season.

Also would like to see special elk tags like Fort Peck go to one every ten years. To give more people a chance also big horn sheep and moose.

I wish the season would be moved back a couple weeks in hope for cooler weather. My biggest fear is getting something down an not being able to get it out before it spoiles, so I just hunt the tail end of the season in hope of some cooler weather.

I think elke hunting should start two weeks later in Sept. and end the same time. Maybe after rifle season a two week hunt for archery then.

I personally am satisfied with elk hunting in Montana, but would like to see a late hunt in areas 313,314 for either sex.

I am distrubed at the increasing amount of logging activity in area 361 and I do feel it effects the elks daily feeding patterns.

Alot of people including rifle hunters and ranchers feel bow hunters cripple alot of animals. These animals go off and die and are never found. If the season was moved to after general season a person could track a wounded animal alot easier. Just ask around and you will find out the same thing.

For me elk are hard enough to get with a rifle, that is the reason I would take a spike or cow if I am hunting where this can be done.

I would like very much to see late season deer archery season in areas other than river bottoms and refuge sites. Statewide late deer archery would be great.

In the area I normaly hunt, 1987 was a disaster due to the deer die off caused by what I have heard reffered to as Blue Tounge. I totally enjoy seeing the animals during archery season wether I shoot one or not. The kill is not so important to me as is being out and seeing deer and elk

In the last few years I haven't had the oppportunity to hunt as much as I'd like. There is one thing that concerns me. Bucks are getting scarcer and scarcer and does are everywhere. Also instead of a two week late season on top of what we have now, I think it would be better to shorten archery season one week and then have one week of late season hunting.

I'd like to see additional late season hunts such as the Porcupine Creek hunt in the Gallatin.

I feel allowing a post season hunt for either sex deer and elk would bring in more revenue. To reduce over kill drop the doe and cow quotas during the general season. Allowing the archer a greater oppurtunity to harvest an animal. I feel most archers are meat hunters not trophy hunters. They should be allowed an extra chance after general season.

I believe ther should be a late season bow hunt. The bow hunter's could keep down farmer loses of hay and not creat a problem of guns hitting livestock. Plus you would have snow for tracking purposes when you hit a animal.

Needs:

Late season hunts for rutting deer. More responsive game wardens. Cooperation between USFS and MDFWP.

I also think archers should be given more considoration for moose, sheep, goat hunts (drawing) and (seasons). Also bowhunters should be allowed to take a buffalo with bow and arrow.

In order to control the number of cows in areas-it seems to me that the archery season be moved to Dec.1 - Jan.1 so that the hunters have access to more cow elk, and hopefully a higher success rate.

If post season does go into efect it sould be several weeks after rifle closes.

The early seaso is so hot (weather) that it kind of spoils hunting, therefore I would like to see a late season after gun season.

On elk I would like to see the gun season shortened to 2 weeks-too much pressure for too long-let the herd build up some.

The number of wounded and unrecovered big game animals in Montana archery hunting is too high. That number could be reduced by cuffing the early season and replaceing it with a late Dec.-Jan. seasons when there would be guranteed tracking snow. Also pass either-or regulations so that unskilled gun hunters would not be tempted to go out with a bow also.

I have no great ocmplaints on Montana bow hunting as I do not go as often as I would like and cannot jsutify any hard and fast complaints until I do. I would like to see a late season deer and elk hunt when the weather is severe and only certain hunters would go out.

I wish you could take animals with a bow and then another with a rifle. At least on deer as there are a lot of them.

Also I would like to see an archery season through the month of December.

In 12 years of elk hunting with bow I've never found a dead elk that was unclaimed or spoiled.

Like bugle season and chance to hunt grouse during first week of bow season.

Not in favor of post season hunt at expense of regular hunt.

The elk season should occur after the regular rifle season.

This would reduce lost animals, and increase the amount of big bulls available.

I find archery hunting very enjoyable and good for the spirit. However I beleive hunting would be better if there was a late season hunt.

I feel an archery season which would begin 2 weeks later than 1987 would be beneficial and would improve hunter success and enjoyment as well as provide for improve harvests.

Would like to see more hunts (Deer and elk) after regular season with a bow. It is easier to track with snow on ground so there would be fewer wounded animals and a higher kill rate.

Would like to see an after rifle archery season.

1987 wasn't a very good hunting year. It was to warm and dry. I think it would be better if hunting seasons were mvoed up one month like instead of Sept. move it to Oct. The weather is colder and more snow. Makes for better hutning and better tracking.

I would favor two week break between archery & rifle seasons, and would also like to see the grouse season open one week later than archery. I would also like to see some post-rifle archery either sex areas.

Would like to see some late hunts for elk archery only in Gardiner area

also a bowhunter education class would help a lot of hunters, or possibly a test at a local range before a archery permit can be issued

I FEEL THAT BECUASE OF THE LOW SUCESS RATE OF BOW HUNTERS & THE LOW EFFECT ON ELK DISTRIBUTION, THAT A LATE ELK SEASON FOR BOW'S IN SOME AREAS SHOULD BE ARRANGED THE THOUGHT OF EITHER BOW OR RIFLE BUT NOT BOTH SHOULD BE THROWN OUT.

The only thing I would like to see is a late season hunt like rifle damage hunts it would make tracking and tracking the animals much easier, with less wasted animals.

I would like to see archery season open later Sept 20-Oct 10 the reopen after general season when there is snow available for tracking shot animals

I am mostlt satisfied with archery the way it is set up at this time I like the idea of two week post season hunt.

It would be nice if the season was shortened for 2 weeks. But it would also be nice to have a post-season hunt for deer only a week after rifle season, for 1 week only. And only if you haven't got a deer & it would be bucks only 4 point & better (whitetail) & 5 point & better (Mulie).

22. GENERAL COMMENTS ON SEASON, TIME, LENGTH, ETC. COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC HUNTING DISTRICTS.

I would like to see archery special season in Decker Flats in 313. It is not fair to just give the rifle season them. And also give the handicaped person a better brake on licenses and areas to hunt.

I actually think bow season should start about two weeks earlier. And something should be done about the planes at Slippery Arm reservor.

I am very opposed to archery permits by drawing as only option to hunt in specific districts. Also very opposed to restricing archers to just one species, or one area.

I am very interested in having an early mule deer hunt in high mountain areas in particular (like Colorado and Utah do); and some more late season areas for elk (perhaps cows only is gunhunters feel favoritism is being shown in giving extra opportunity to archers for harvesting bulls) in addition to our budgeting season.

The archery season was fine this year but maybe you should work on a different schedule for opening weekend!! I hunted the first weekend and didn't see but 2 cows and a calf that were on a dead run. This was due to about 500 hunters that were in the area. That was in two different areas on two different days!! The reason everybody was out was because it was a three day weekend!! Please don't let this happen again!! I went out every possible time I could and had opportunities at 3 elk but the closest I got was 100 yards and, mind you, 3 times this happened, another hunter that had no clue that elk were even around, walked in and scared them off!! I was extremely ---- off!! My hunts were messed up by idiotic bozos that don't know how to hunt!! Please do something to cut down the numbers of hunters!!

I think that the number of mature bull elk in the 2 districts that we have been hunting are down. The reason I believe is the general rifle season is too long in the Bob Marshall and that the forest has grown up over the last 80 years and covered up some great habitat resulting in not much winter area and smaller numbers of game.

I would favor shortening the archery season by two weeks if that time were allotted to a muzzle loading rifle season. Some states have a primitive weapons season that includes archery and muzzle loaders. This would be an ideal combination in my opinion.

Because of the distance to the Missoula side of Blue Mt. (203). The Missoula side of Blue Mt. should be closed to hunting of any

kind for several seasons at least.

I believe that archery hunting has little if no affect on the numbers or location of big game and any regulation or limit changes should be done during the general season when the majority of all big game is taken.

Again, I'd like to suggest something different for other game species (besides deer and elk) particularly antelope, such as being able to use an unfilled antelope archery tag during the rifle season, and separate archery seasons or zones for goat, moose, sheep, etc.

As a relatively new bow hunter I have had little success but I enjoy this sport very much. I bow hunt for the sport and rifle and handgun hunt for meat. I would like to see the last week of bow season opened for muzzle loaders. I appreciate your interest in my opinions.

I feel it would be a good idea to emphasize population control more in archery. For example, more permits in high population areas or cow elk only archery hunting in areas with high population of cows and a bull only rifle season.

The only reason I stay in Montana is for the hunting. Montana is a depressed area. I think I would be happier with a longer time to hunt, maybe have a muzzle loader season. Spread it out more, before September and after November. It's all over with, then we have to wait nine more months.

To warm during season, can't get to far back in the woods. To much worry about meat spoiling, mostly on elk spoils easy.

It was a good year of elk hunting this season.

I believe hunters should be able to hunt elk and deer in any district and with either bow or rifle or both.

I enjoy the season alot and think it is set up well. I have yet to kill an elk but have seen lots. "Where do they go in rifle season!" Ha Ha.

Archery tag to be good for 2 weeks only that way you cut the amount of archer in the field in half. If you shorten the season there would be far to many there at that time. I feel their to much pressure on the elk now in the Breaks, for a long a time now. I don't like drawings for permits but that may be the only choise.

I would like to see a late trophy hunt for mule deer.

I want longer season or split seasons. How about extra deer tags

along with late archery damage hunts. How about an extra archery season or areas instead of those "shotgun only" areas around populated areas. How about archery only season on buffalo, sheep, goat and less restrictions on bear. We need a much longer antelope season, how about 3 - 4 more weeks after rifle season.

Referring to question #11 on page 4, I'm in favor of banning all these vehicles anywhere around where I'm hunting. How about more special drawing archery only elk tags. Late hunt archery only tags? You could get more money for more tags with less game actually harvested per tag issued.

Overall archery is a good time of year for me. I would, however, like to see more elk populations. I would also like to see a longer season in some areas where there is not much else to do, maybe by drawing. PS, sorry about the delay in returning the questionnaire.

I feel that general season hunting has badly deteriorated in terms of quality because of crowds and competition for animals and access. Please do not let this happen to archery season too. We must find a way to control numbers of people afield.

It sounds like you're trying to complicate things. I bow hunt because it's available. Any reduction in availability would probably reduce the enjoyment and the ease with which I hunt now.

Most residents don't have a great amount of hunting time available. When one likes to hunt elk, the best time is during the rut. But weather and moisture seems to have a lot to do with success and one is not always able to get out during prime hunting times. That's elk hunting, tho.

I would like to see black powder season instead of extending the archery season.

Please do everything you can to keep rifle hunting and the rut separate. I feel strongly that pressure from the large number of hunters this would bring has strong impacts on the elk distribution and breeding programs.

We need more area as archery only and to extend season from a week earlier through January, the season is too short as they are.

Lengthen the season by 1 or 2 weeks past, to allow for a little snow.

I would like to see more areas set aside for bow hunting only.

I think you folks have done a commendable job in Montana on archery hunting. I see little need for change. I'm not

voilently opposed to cross-bows, but I don't personally are for them. I don't feel they are "archery" - its a gun with a string rather than powder. Let them be used in regular season. Try to instill in all Montanan's a sense of responsibility and integrity - hunting ethics, if you will. That will do more good in the long run. Educate hunters of all kinds. Standarize minimum canons for hunting, caring for the animals, the land, the landowners, etc. Crack down on poaching and alcohol usage by hunters or anyone. Hunting is a part of my religion - its not a kegger. And when someone, in his excitement, doesn't cut out the bloody license in perfect fashion, don't make him out a criminal. You folks breed more public discontent than you know by not treating hunters with dignity - assuming is that they are "legal" - not illegal. The rule is - you reap what you sow. Thanks for the opportunity, sorry for the delay.

I would like to see archery hunting open in areas 326 and 324.

Being a bow hunter I realize there will have to be a shorter season due to the number of people and also the powder hunters a season so I recomend a week from bow hunters and a week from gun hunters would treat all hunters the same regardless what you hunt with.

I feel the FW & P is doing a good job with the game management and handling the archery season. Not shooting spikes is a good idea. Also don't every have the season open until after Labor Day. More bow hunting only archery seasons for whitetails would be nice. Changing the Three Forks archery only area to shotgun/rifle devastated that area for archers to the point we don't ever go there after hunting there consistently for ten years.

I think basically they should leave our season like they were 2 years ago as far as the length and leave everything else alone.

Where I have hunted for years there were 2 sometimes 3 bow camps. This year there were 9. The bulls didn't talk much and some moved their herds to private ground. There is to many hunters in one place at the same time. The compound bow has taken its toll on bulls. Less skill is needed to get within range. I think numbers of bow kills should be limited to an area. If rifle hunting is going to be held also. There is only so many bull elk and the number of bulls is definitely less. It is hard to be excited about bugling when all there is squeaks and squalksin every bush. I apologize for being negative but this year I feel a real need for change in bow hunting is necessary if bows and rifles are going to be able to be used satisfactorily in the same area. Number of elk taken by bow needs to be regulated: 1) shorten bow season, 2) More accurate bow kill counts.

I live in Eastern Montana. The quality of hunting has greatly

deminished (alot) the last 5 to 7 years. I hunt mosltly antelope and whitetail with a bow. I also like to hunt birds (turkeys, grouse) with a bow. I am a serious hunter (trophy) and have seen alot of eople quit hunting because there isn't hardly any trophies around, also because landowners won't let people hunt. About the only trophies I know about or here about are on private land where you can't hunt, because that individual is protecting the few that are left, or he has been trampled by hunters. I feel the gun season is way to long! I think 2 weeks or 3 weeks at the longest is time enough to hunt. That would increase the trophy potential greatly. I feel that 50 to 75% of the people want a mature to trophy animal. Those who don't by the time they get done paying for gas, time, tag, skills, etc., beef steak is better and cheaper. (Many people feel this way!) Less people + less trophies = less revenue.

As archery hunting increases in popularity, the following suggestion would provide recreation for many more hunters without additional cost of elk:
In areas where elk rifle permits are few in number and provide 100% success, such as the CMR Refuge, Total elimination of these would certainly benefit more people.

I feel that archery hunters all in all probably wound less game then gun hunters since they are generally more educated
I would like to see a 2 week break between Archery and gun season.

Hunters in District 300 are becoming over populated from from different towns in Montana. They should stay to close to their District to them, then to come here.

Make more areas as just a bowhunting area.

I would like to see the Bow season extended either before or after general season.

I feel that there are more areas in Eastern Montana that could support a limited elk population (also more turkeys) i.e. The Missouri Breaks from Fort Peck to Fort Union.

I would like to be able to bowhunt in area 324 sometime but it is never open for bowhunting.

Should limit number of permits let out in hunting area's 621-623-622-631-632. To many hunters on opening weekends.

I am really pleased with the archery season. I like it more than gun season. I just only wish they would open the Ruby to Archery Season, as it is my favorite place to hunt.

I think the Bow hunter In the area's (630,631,632,622) should put

in for 2 week season. (Like the Rifle Premitt's)
Have the same amount of Premitt's. "But 3 season 2 week each"
The Bow Hunter can put in for the week of His choose.
"This would Decrease presser" And the number on Hunters at one
Time.

To many trophy Bulls get killed during the gun season in 631 &
632.

If archery hunters don't get their first choice at archery
permits they should also have a chance to get a gun permit.

I believe that the bear season in the 500 areas should not be on
a quota but should be a fall and Spring general season.

I think season should be longer so you can plan to Hunt more than
1 species and center your Hunting on one for a 10 day period.
Than go after another.

The new walk-in area on 212 (above the prison ranch) is good,
only if there is no late season hunts because of poor harvest, if
poor harvest is a problem in that area the walk-in should be
changed back to motor vichles.

Well thought of surey, hope I was of some assistance.

In Reference to Part II - 8 - E.

Every one should pay the two dollars. But never have to pay it
more than once. This would enclude all types of hunting and
fishing.

Part II - 8 - 1 I think it would be better to shorten the season
by taking away a week at the beginning not at the end.

Think that there should be a special season for just kids. That
are able to hunt in an reserved area.

Start archery season 1 week earlier.

My job does not allow me the luxury of planning hunting trips
ahead of time. Normally hunt weekends and try to take an extra
day or two off. Sometimes job extends into Saturday with short
notice.

A short restrictive hunting season might force me to abandond bow
hunting, especially if I had to chose between bow and gun.

I would rather bow hunt, but the colder weather of gun season
usually slows the construction projects down, and allows more
time off from work.

Would like to see special (early) seasons for archery hunting for
moose & sheep.

Me and my brother think that there should be like two seasons of
archery to every third year of gun season to improve the
population of elk in Montana.

The archery seasons we have I think are good. Would like to see 800 antelope good for any area. Would like to see a extra tag for #800 antelope. I like the Helmville B tag either sex season. I think it is good that the commission works with the bow-hunters.

I think area 324 should be re-opened for archery elk hunting. I can't think of any good reason that it should be closed.

The archery hunting in Montana is of moderate quality for large trophy type animals.

I would like to see more archery only deer and elk areas in the state. Especially western Montana that I could utalize.

Rather than 1 week post season Hunt - I think season should close for 1-2 weeks then open for 3-4 weeks.

Area by Lewis Clark Caverns that is closed and has been should be open to archers only.

I would like to see an archery season for bears along the Beartooths. There wouldn't be many taken & it would provide a exciting experience for many. But not during a rifle season at the same time. It's extremely dangerous to be bowhunting when people are out there hunting with rifles. This happened several years ago when there was a fall bear season (rifles) during the special archery season. I didn't feel safe and wasn't very happy about it.

Also last spring when they started seismographing in the Beartooths it was stated that they would quit before the archery season. Two weeks before the archery season they said they wouldn't quit and we would have to share. Someone got paid off and it fouled up some very good elk hunting. It was too late to opose.

Archery hunting doesn't increase the number of animals or tags available to the hunter. But it does spread the hunter impact over a greater length of time reducing the number of hunters in the field at a given time during the hunting season.

Generally satisfied w/status quo. Would like to see season end on a Sunday rather than Saturday but I hear this may have been addressed. Most of my hunting has been on Siebon Ranch S. of Cascade. The owner & foreman have been very cooperative.

Shortening the archery season would ease the pressure on elk which may affect their reproduction. The shorten season may enable some larger bulls to survive and also be around for the general season. Restricting the pound pull of a bow may reduce unqualified archery hunters who often only wound animals.

I would like to see a new law that if you are successful in getting a elk then you would have to give up big game hunting until next year. If a person gets a elk during archery he can still yet get another one in the rifle season. Lets pay more attention to the instate hunter. We should start looking at the amount of military people hunting in Montana with Military I.D, and not paying out of state license. Just something to think about with the new growth of Malstrom AFB.

I think as a bow hunter that elk season should be extended like the whitetailed deer expectataty for those who has a cow tags and dont fill their tag's during reg season or just for the sport of it and for harossting the cows and cave's that need to be thened out.

Elk population in 621-623 has not recovered from the excessive rifle kill-off several years ago when so many rifle permits were issued. The Fish & Game blamed archery pressure for this - but the real reason was Fish & Game error in issuing so many rifle permits several years ago. Rifle permits should be cut back to perhaps 1/4 untill the population returns to normal in that area.

In area 623 there is too much early morning and late evening road travel along the river where the elk congregate at night. I suggest that you could limit travel within 1 mile of the river to a period in the middle of the day, for example 10 am to 4 pm with an exception made for game retrieval. Since we have to apply for a permit in 623 I would like to see a post season hunt. If a landowner feels he has too many deer - issue him extra doe permits for his ranch.

I think that there sould be more elk planted in Dillon because there isn't all that many mostly cows and calves.

I would like to see archery season stay either sex but come general fire arm season I would like it to go to bulls only. I believe this would increase the populations of elk in this area.

I hunted area 310 (archery only) Porcupine Creek, 2 years ago during Janary. I believe an area like this is great for archery hunting in general and wish there were two or three areas, such as this, set asside for archery only from beginning of archery season through entire late season.

I would like to see district 324 opened back up to bowhunting if not fully how about on a permit basic. Also in no way would I like to see crossbows legal during archery season.

How about a late either sex white-tailed hunt.

I was in the process of building a house during the 1987 season

so thats the reason for the low number of hunt days for "87"
normally I would hunt 45 to 60 day

Would like to see Upper Ruby area 324 open again for archery -
No more harm than letting all those out of staters go there
during gun season.

I would really like to see the archery season lengthened.

I would like to see the season open on every Labor Day weekend.
That makes it nice for people like me who own a business that cant
get away all the time a good 3 day weekend to hunt.
Thank you

I would like to see some type of archery season on the Gravelly
Range in area 324. Some type of limited by permit through
drawing hunt could possibly be tried to keep pressure low and not
significantly disturb the elk.

I believe there should have been a late hunt in Granite County.
The weather was a bad factor for hunter this year.
And the elk population has increased very heavy. And their is a
not a winter ground for them to feed.

I feel the archery season should be lengthened by 2 wks in August
& 2 wks in December.

I would like to see the hunting by District in area 621,622,623
done away with. You want to do away with pressure it has caused
more.

I see no reason why we can not have more and longer bow seasons
we need to shorten the rifle season that is where the mature
animals are killed (and the immature animals)
I think we have a real problem with mature mule deer bucks (we
don't have any)

I think we need to look at how many bull elk are wounded each
year. I think more are dieing from wounds than the fish & game
realizes

This booklet was an excellent idea it should be done every year

All hunting season should be shorten Archery and Rifle

The shortening of the rifle season by 1 week would help in
increase the big game population. I would start it one week
later than it starts now.

I have bowhunted in Montana for 15 years and have seen very
little change in game populations or hunting opportunities. The
only area that I see problems with is the Missouri Breaks
Country. This superbly game rich area is overrun with hopeful
Archers, due to the visibility of the game. I feel limited

archery permits would remove the unbelievable pressure on the elk, and make for a more quality hunting experience.

To: Fish, Wildlife & Parks Dept.

This survey is generally good for most archers who just like hunting in general, but it should include more detail. For example: I would like to see the hunting season stay the same for the time allowed. I feel if they would make all hunters buy their license before the archery season opened and pick if they want to hunt elk with bow or rifle and if they should pick bows they should have to hunt with a bow all the way through the big game season. That way a person hunting with a bow could hunt elk through the rut and on into the general season and hunt deer during their rut. Being that bowhunting is so difficult it would give a person a better chance seeing the bigger bucks. All check stations would be able to have a list of all persons with bow license & vice versa. I love bowhunting and am only able to hunt on weekends so my hunting season isn't very long, but I like hunting deer & elk so I'd hate to see it go to where I'd only be able to hunt deer during the early fall when you don't get a chance to see the big bucks. Hope this is clear enough & maybe help to solve some problems Thanks

Why can't you let the Bow hunters and the Rifle season open together the Bow hunters just chase the Elk down in the Canyons and they don't come out till after season

Start season I wait later

I would like to see an additional week-to-two weeks after hunting season. & for the best hunting for the best meat in the second week of July either sex, either species, only one animal per-house hold.

If this is a good suggestion let me know

The summer season could be archery by drawing only, & residents of this state only. Maybe even drawings for areas too

I live on a family owned ranch in hunting district 520 therefore the majority of my hunting is done there. I have followed this elk herd very closely for the last 10 years and it has shown a steady increase. This in part is due to the permit hunting (for rifle) that was in effect for 5 years. We now have more elk here than we or our neighbors can afford to feed. We need either more hunters or more rifle cow permits.

I would like to see a longer archery season before the General and after the General. I really enjoy hunting with a bow.

My only suggestion concerns area 260 and the Lee Metcalf game refuge. The deer population there seems to be out stripping the habitat. Perhaps the entire refuge could be opened for archery hunting next year.

As a archery hunter I sure hated them to close Fort Peck north side to special permit, because I would not be able to apply for a gun permit. I don't think the bow harvest was that great in that area to justify a permit only season.

P.S. Also they better quite issueing B tag's for eastern Montana. We have very few deer left after last year. That is due to all the B tag's issued in 85 & 86.

ARCHERY hunting is GREAT SPORT. I would rather hunt with a bow than a gun - though I am much less successful with my gun. I would favor a shorter gun season for a longer Bow season - But I don't want to give up Rifle hunting all together - I'd like to see the Archery season re open in December like it does in many other states-

Thanks for allowing me to take part in the Survey. Glad you are interested

I would like to see extended archery season's on deer in my District (100)

I feel 2 weeks of doe season is too long in rifle season.

In order to harvest more whitetail deer in River bottom (Bitterroot) Archery season should start Aug and R? through Mar.

I think archery season is an exciting sport, and needs to be managed for more animals. I also feel that the season should be lengthened by a week.

I would definitely like to see the archery season shortened by 1 week, to allow for 2 weeks between archery and general hunting seasons.

I feel the areas north of the Missouri river shoud be put back the way they always were. The Elk herd in the breaks is still growing and I don't feel the pressure on the north side hurts a bit.

If you open a General Season Elk in the Snowys, alot of land owners that are allowing hunting now, will shut their land off totally. It is a crazy plan. Access is a fair problem now, that would really blow it.

If any changes were to be made concerning quality hunting, I feel the best would be to limit the number of people in the field by establishing a mandatory drawing for archery permits for elk, that would provide the right to hunt with a bow on a statewide basis. Although I feel the number should be unlimited, it would keep those less than avid bowhunters out by the fact they would forfiet the right to apply for special permits during the rifle season.

In general, I'm satisfied with the hunting season and the management of the antlered bulls.

I believe the hunting along the Missouri river should include both sides - Sometimes it is impossible to drive to the south side because of mud, making it necessary to camp on the north side which means one has to have a boat to even get to the south side to hunt. I have experienced this.

Some areas may be effected by the early archery season. Limit those areas by drawing or whatever. DO NOT restrict all bow hunters across the state. You limit rifle hunters in certain areas by drawing for certain tags.

I think the Breaks area north of the Missouri River should be reopened to unlimited archery hunting. The pressure south of the river has increased significantly because of the hunting restrictions on the north side.

In areas 404 & 444 Deer archery seasons closed to early it should stay open for the rut until 15th of Dec.

Increase the herd size in the Breaks area.

I think there should be more elk transplanted in districts 100-101. that is planted in the high country, not down in the farm lands.

I really enjoy the archery hunting. I have a problem having enough time to really hunt. An extended season would increase my opportunities.

The only comment I have is: The legal description of hunting districts should be again supplied with hunting maps. The hunting maps are not very clear on area boundaries. Also could area 417 be included in the Elk Archery Season? There seems to be a large enough herd of Elk in this district to sustain an archery season.

Regarding the Jefferson River Closure area in district #311 - the quality of hunting has decreased the past two seasons since it has been open to gun hunting - I don't think there is an over abundance of white tails this time - final comment, I know several ranchers in the river bottom area who are becoming upset with the hunting season and hunters "over running" the ranch lands.

I think the Archery Season should be extended for another 2 weeks. Sometimes at the first of the season it's too hot for the animals. I also think crossbows should be allowed for bow season.

In regard to Question 8 Part II Sec. G,H,I. Why not add one week

on the beginnng of the season and take one week off at the end. to keep bow season the same length but add a 2 week break with no hunting.

the archery permit should allow the archer to hunt in multiple districts as well as in the district he may have been draws for during the rifle season.

8i: If a 2 week break is an objective - shorten rifle season by 1 week!

The Fish & Game Department should become more aware of the animal populations in certain areas. In area 612, I've seen the number of animals drop drastically the last couple of years. I believe they should close off this district for at least one year to help bring back the population. Same way in 703.

I live for hunting, and would like to see seasons expanded - both rifle and bow. As situation warrants, would like to see extra tags available for additional animals per person.

The bow season should definitely be shortened to a two week season, & license fees should be increased - Also I would prefer to see bow season in December.

As suburbia expands so does the opportunity for archery hunting for deer. Some possible areas for archery only hunting might be, Gallatin Valley, Shields River Valley, Lower Yellowstone, Missouri Headwaters area, area near Seely Lake, Missouri Bottom from Ft. Benton to Wolf Cr.

Personally I think that Bow hunting should be limited to certain areas and to have a plentiful abundance of big game animals to hunt, Also have a either sex, either species Bow season and Either sex Antlered gun season and increase the Bag limit by 1

I believe that the numbers of big game are high for all types. I also believe that the season for archery hunting is long enough for a serious hunter to get his game. There is a large number of non-serious archers who lose game for lack of talent or respect for the game. Something should be done to lessen the numbers of these type of archers who hunt.

I feel that to shorten the archery season to improve hunting for the rifle hunters is prejudust toward archery hunters. This can be compromised by shortening both archery and rifle seasons with the special drawing permits and season length staying the same. Thank you.

I would like to see an early antelope archery hunt similar to the early rifle hunt. Many bowhunters I know would like to hunt antelope but prefer to concentrate on elk or deer since there's no chance to try antelope easily. I also think this survey is a

good idea.

Because of warm weather I think the start date should be set back a week.

I also feel that because I hunt with a bow I can hunt 6 mo. and with a rifle I can only hunt 6 wks. This is unfair to the rifle hunters. Too much easy access for 4X4 and ATV.

I would like to see archery only areas for sheep and goats. I don't think the kill would have much impact on populations. Taking into account the low success ratio of archery hunting.

I would like to see Metcalfe in area 260 opened up more yet to archers to kill more deer. All the deer hang out where you can't hunt if they need to rifle hunt I hope it would be a special hunt by permit only and only until the deer pop. is down where it should be.

The whole area of the Lee Metcalf refuge should be opened in order to decrease the number of deer so they don't get hit on the highways.

I think that there should be more districts that are strictly made for bow hunting purposes. I also think that these areas should be kept open even during the rifle hunting seasons.

Start a late season or post big game season for bow hunters or even a muzzleloading season as a post season. We all need to be "pro hunting". Don't limit anything to shorter seasons. Some states have 4-5 months of hunting seasons. We should have that much to help eliminate pressure in the big game rifle season.

Start a muzzle hunting season after big game rifle season for damage hunt in certain area.

I've hunted in Idaho most of my life. Since the elk season is a month earlier, for rifle, it seemed like hunting was much better. About the only way I see elk, in Montana, is during bow season, thus my use of a bow this year. I'd actually prefer hunting elk with a rifle.

Would like to see them close early elk hunting with a rifle.

Maybe bait should be allowed, in the spring only, for bears, and there could be a special one month archery only bear season in the spring. Also I think some special drawings ie sheep should be earmarked for archers only. Thanks for the survey, will the results be published.

I am very happy with the bow season in Montana. Late season hunts would be a great bonus. (By special drawing only maybe)

Either or seasons could be good. Bowhunting should be allowed during rifle season always. I would be nice for a bowhunter to not have to wear orange while hunting on special permits for sheep, goat and moose.

I strongly favor keeping an archery season. I would like to see it split with most of it in Dec. for some close it during the elk bugle season as I strongly believe it disturbs the elk and scatters the herds so the cows are not getting bred to full capacity. I see too many cows without calves.

Special B tags for deer antelope-take some pressure from elk and allow bow hunters to harvest game without losing A tags for rifle season.

I would like to see buck season reduce to 1 or 2 weeks-doe season increased to full term. I would like to see elk hunting stopped for 3 years as to increase herds. Last year I saw over 200 does and only 4 bucks-we need to take more does.

Archery hunting has no effect on rifle season as far as I can see.

I live in area 130 having moved to Bigfork in 1953. Was district ranger here on the Swan District from 1953 to 1970 when I retired. During the past 15 years I have noticed a marked decline in elk populations in district 130. I would be in favor of it being closed to elk hunting or at least the season shortened to help rebuild the elk population.

My ideal bow hunting season would be structured as follows: Shorten the season to allow animals to "relax" for two weeks between seasons, allow the purchase of a separate tag for the species to be hunted and limit the bowhunter to that species of animal, if successful the bowhunter would also be able to hunt that species with the regular rifle tag during gun season.

I would like to see all early "B" tags for deer incorporated into the general rifle season, as the present practice shortens my deer bow-hunting season in my favorite areas. I am sorry if this sounds selfish, but I am sure it can be easily accomplished, even if it meant a late hunt.

Private timberland management vs. habitat is critical in N.W. Montana. Something needs to be done now!

Separate elk/deer archery to allow same season rifle hunting.

Allow deer archery during rut.

Bow hunting is a very natural form of hunting and there by does not create the pressure which regular hunting season may incur

in some areas.

I am a very avid bowhunter and rifle hunter. I would not be opposed at all to limiting the number of persons hunting (drawings, or every other year.) There are too many people hunting, and its disapointing to go bow hunting, and see more trucks and roads, and people than you do elk. Elk taken during rifle season should be branch antlered only.

I liked the idea for raising the cost of the license, ever raise it to more than \$20.00. To many amateurs go up the first few weeks and harass the elk and serious hunters-

You could move bow season up one week, move bird season back one week, then add a musket-crossbow season in between. Those people could only hunt the one season.

Further restrictions on archery hunting should not be considered. If anything the archery season should be expanded with more liberal bag limits. Expanded seasons and limits will not adversely effect game populations as few hunters are afield.

Archery hunting is a great sport. I've learned more about big game in 5 years of archery hunting than I did my lifetime of rifle hunting.

I would like to see a split season-two week rest after rifle season then two weeks more of archery season.

Question (8)

I would favor a shorter archery season only if the week or so was removed from the first of the season. In 8 years of elk hunting I've found the best time from Sept. 20 to Oct.1st. To me this is the best time for quality elk hunting.

If the state would shorten the season's for a few years, cut out either sex for same length of time, Deer and elk and restrict elk to forked horn or more. If the state would do this and not worry about the lining of their pockets for a while, then this state would attract more hunters, but only with the constant up-grading of game. Relocate from crowded areas with assistance of locals that feel a threat from overpopulation.

Support shortening end of season gun period-to increase # of trophy heads available for rest of gun and archery season-

The upper 1/3 of 130 should be included in with the late hunt of 170.

Once again I would like to state that I would liek to see both an early and late season archery hunts with a week waiting period before and after the general season. Also maybe there should be

restrictions on certain areas not only on elk but deer also if you make a hunter choose between a gun or bow choose per species not seasons...

Really, I think we should have only one hunting season. Use rifle, crossbow, whatever you want. I feel archery season is ruining rifle season, or better yet-let Mont residence use rifles and out of state hunters use only bows. Still reduce out of state tags by 90%.

It seems like a lot of states allow hunters to take an either-sex deer with a bow and firearm. I prefer hunting white-tails with a bow and muleys with rifle but if I shoot a white tail buck w/ a bow my deer hunting is finished. I realize this is a selfish attitude but I'm wondering what effect this type of season would have on our deer populations.

Although, I am satisfied with the archery season, I am very concerned with the handling of the bird seasons in my region (406). The grouse season is far too long. In the early 70's the season was 2 weeks long and there was plenty of birds. Now the grouse population is almost non-existent and the season is 3 months long.

Let bow and rifle hunter hunt same season. Or at least provide some bugle seasons for rifle hunters like we had in area 321 several years ago.

Please don't put any more hunters in any district: next to a district with permit only hunters. I think if you stop the permit hunters the elk will stop moving between districts. Less pressure/on one side than the other side can you understand.

I feel that Sept. 6 was too early to start the season this year, because of the warm weather, I heard of so many hunters that got their game, but were so far back in, that by the time they got it out, half the meat had spoiled from the heat. It didn't happen to me, but quite a few friends. The season should be delayed at least until a week later.

I would like to see archery season open one week earlier, as it seems the elk are going into the rut earlier.

Need more deer and elk in Dist #700.

The road into Indian Creek Saddle should be shut off. Elk are in migra. in rifle season and have no where to go shut it off 3-4 miles down, and keep joy riders and poachers out. And very large camps out.

I hunt a lot in 380 I think they should put it back like it was a leave it alone; what elk and bulls they say they see is way low

anyone pushing the pencil can make it say what he wants

I think the season should be shortened at least 1 week, to give a longer break between archery and general season.

Need archery season in area 170 for whitetails, during the rut. The shotgun season for does should either be before the rut, or after.

It would be nice to some day be able to hunt for trophy bull elk in the Sun River refuge through a limited drawing for archery only in bugleing season.

PERMIT ONLY/ RIFLE OR BOW/ UPSETS ME GREATLY - THE PUBLIC HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY AS MYSELF TO BOW HUNT IF THEY CHOOSE TO DO SO. LET THE FREE-MARKET WORK - IF ONE PLACE IS OVERCROWDED OR POOR HUNTING; ALLOW US TO GO INTO ANOTHER AREA - PERMIT ONLY, NATURALLY INCREASES PRESSURE ON ADJACENT AREAS CREATING LANDOWNER & HUNTING COMPLAINTS. THE SUCCESS RATE (KILL) OF ARCHERS HAS MINIMUL IMPACT.

I'm in favor of "B" tags for antlered deer in reg. 260

I think it's great the F&G is doing this but I think its time we start draw for deer & elk tag in gun season so we have quality hunts not drives. I hate to see Montana truning into another Colardo!

I think Elk and Deer hunting with a bow and arrow archery season should be extended. Bring rifle season in 2 weeks later than it comes in originally.

I think you should go to a tag system like Alaska.

More available elk would be nice. I think thath that would help mu hunting prospects. I haven't hunted deer much but intend to in the 170 dist. next year . Don't shorten our seasons, I can't get off to hunt that frequently. Keep up the good work!

While archery hunting pressure is not high in most areas, one area needs to be limited - 447 (Highwood Mountains). The pressure of hunting in the Highwoods can be eased by making it an archery only area for the full-season length plus an additional four weeks (Sept thru Dec)

I think it would present very interesting management possibilities if you would require that a hunter select just 1 district to hunt in. It would also present some interesting problems to hunters

It has been very warm, and they have only been bugling at night, and the very early morning hour's. Last year Elk in district 203

& 240 were bugling in Late October. Maybe season date's have to be changed. It a very unfair disatvantage to the Elk to bugle them in to within 200 yards and blitz them with a rifle. Also I don't think that there is as many Elk as the fish & game department says there is. Up Lolo creek there is to much logging activity the elk simply don't have the privacy they need to live in an area. I have talked to a lot of veteran hunter's both Bow & rifle hunters and every one has seen a very large decrease in Elk number's up Lolo creek. This area has the potential to hold large number's of Elk but it doesn't. Why?

I was wondering why there is no archery hunting in districts 324

Success may be high for hunters who are able to hunt every weekend all season long. I only get to make a one week trip a year and too shorten the season would make it even more difficult to get a week off during archery season.

Currently ample opportunities exist. If restrictions are necessary the choice should first be the special season options that archers sacrifice ie. similar to Region 6 Breaks. Rather than chosing a specific district it could be a series of districts or redo current HD into new archery districts that are larger.

I think there is a lot of pressure on elk in area 410 and there should be special permits like in the hunting districts 621,622,623. To many people drive across country on the BLM land, just off the C.M. Russell Refuge. They should be restricted to the roads off the refuge also.

Need more archery only whitetail areas, specifically 260 & 290.

I have had no chance to evaluate the FWP and answer question 13 part 2. Increase of hunting season lengths would be a big contributor to hunter satisfaction/enthusiasm, with minimal impact on number of game animals killed.

WOULD LIKE TO SEE ENTIRE STATE EQUAL FIRST WEEK OF GENERAL SEASON. EITHER SEX FOR 1ST WEEK OR BULLS ONLY ALL SEASON

I think there should be more transplanting of animals, elk mainly from some of the northwest corner. The area could certainly hold more animals!

I think there should be special doe tags during bow season, and close doe season during rifle season.

I would like to see a high population elk area open to archery only. Possibly an area like 427 after it has been closed to rifles and become a quiet zone.

I think the elk archery season should be lengthened by a couple of weeks.

Ques 8I- I feel that if 1 more is week added to the break period-all hunting should cease including upland game birds.

If you want more deer taken out of the riverbottom increase the length of season especially in the spring

Overall, I am pleased with the archery season here in Montana. I would, however, like to see the season start the last week in August instead of the first week in September

If hunting pressure was increased by the amount of hunters some areas, such as 140 could be over harvested. Not opposed to management changes for the sake of the game. To often we respond to late, better to change regs to soon than close areas to late.

I like to have elk answer and come in to bugle. Most too far for a compound but easy shot for cross bow or rifle. If I could change anything I would eliminate the last week of general season.

I think that the river bottom area that was closed between Sappington bridge and three forks should be closed for archery hunting only again.

In most mountain hunting areas I hunt in I feel archery season is well regulated. In CMR areas, because it is fairly open country, I strongly feel rifle hunting for both deer & elk should be stopped or greatly reduced. I drew an elk rifle permit once (bull) & it was like shooting a fish in a barrel. I didn't feel good about it & I removed a good bull that would have made a great hunt for an archer. The deer are almost wiped out.

23. COMMENTS ON GAME POPULATION, SIZE OF BULLS/BUCKS, COW/BULL RATIO.

Cut the elk tags back by half for a few years during rifle season or better yet every 6 years give the elk a brake by letting one session go by without hunting them. (If we did that yo boys would probalby go a do something stuped like double the amount of tages and double the session time on the five years we would hunt them.) Our grandchildren are in trouble.

The elk populations in NW Montana have been steadily decreasing for several years. I used to at least see elk every day I was out but now I only see elk once every 10 times I'm out. We need to somehow rebuild our elk population in northwest Montana.

The elk numbers in NW Montana have continued to increase. Hunter success is due to this increased population density. Big bulls and branch antlered bulls are out there. Heavy timber and rough terrain protects them.

Should let elk in 380 grow. Both elk I shot at were only 3 points.

Part III - Elk hunting (question 13). If my hunting districts would allow me to shoot at spike bulls, I would not pass up a chance to shoot at a spike bull, instead of waiting for the possibility to shoot at a branch antlered bull.

I would like extent the archery season. I would also like to have a bigger bull population because their isn't enough. I would also like to the Fish and Wildlife cut down on chasing the elk, because they are running elk through our fences. Thanks for listening.

I believe there are more problems with rifle hunting laws than archery. We need to implement some changes such as - people drawing cow permits may only take cows, issuing a few more cow permits, and perhaps going to branch antlered bulls only in more districts. From what I've seen, bull to cow ratios are low and getting lower.

I hunt with a bow because I can take either sex animals, but I would like to see trophy opportunities more available to hunters, especially elk.

Where I hunt (370) too many hunters using guns during archery. Very few bulls at all. Two different bunches of 75 - 100 herd I saw this fall. There were 6 spikes in one bunch, 1 raghorn and 3 spikes in the other. Many elk seen during rifle season but only 1 spike. I have hunted this area for 30 years and it is deplorable to see what has happened - road access, too much grazing, poaching, landowner conflicts.

I saw all kinds of does and fawns but no big bucks, like back in the 60's. I saw four 2 points and 200 does and fawns, not a good ratio.

I think herd population is to low. I do not think that tags either sex should go on. I don't like damage hunts. Other things could be done to lower the population in problem areas. Part of our licenses should be given to landowners instead of landowners charging to hunt ever if there is an increase in licenses.

Big game populations need to be increased drastically.

Fact #1 Numbers of elk have no effect of availability of feed. In deep snow the larger the herd, the easier it is for the young and weak to eat. Shooting elk in late season hunts only creates extra stress on elk and the weak still starve. Late season hunts do not lower snow depth one inch nor make a blade of grass more feed. I work in the woods and live year round in the woods. I really believe habitat could support 5 times present herd numbers. On bad winter its better to let the elk starve, because it's natures natural way of getting rid of the weak and sickly. One simple way of increasing the elk herd, would be to require everyone to hunt with open-site and outlaw use of scopes on rifles. Another way is quit killing spikes, cows and calves. Another way it to permit only 5 point or better for killing of bulls. If you had more elk, and hunting by open-site rifles, shotgun and muzzle loaders or bow, you could allow more hunters (not killers) to hunt without discriminating as you do so often against the poor. The more hunters the more profit for you bureaucrats.

F/G Dept. will have to adopt another game management method for elk or the hunting will continue to decline as the elk population declines.

Bow hunting is good but I think we could use a few more bulls and bucks so you should not be able to shoot spiked animals. They need more of a chance to get smart.

The reason less bugling bulls is not less elk but smarter bulls. I don't know what can be done about slob hunters (their in both sports rifle and archery) if anything.

I've hunted elk and deer in Montana since I was 12 years old, thats 35 years hunting experience. I'm a logger and freelance photographer and I feel there's more elk and deer now than then. Their just more nocturnal and bugle wise.

As a rancher it seems to me that the elk herd in 291 and 292 have increased 3 fold in past 5 years. It has begun to be a problem

lately.

I did not hunt elk in 1987. I did hunt deer and felt that hunting of does with fawn that early in the season is not good for those orphaned fawn. I feel that bow hunting should not be for wet does.

I would like to see more trophy animals, more archery only districts, longer seasons. Also permit archery only for sheep, goat, moose, similar to the antelope 800 permit.

We have a lot of hunter pressure with bow and arrow, as well as rifle in the Bitterroot Valley. The game numbers are down. The number of day guides is very high.

Personally I believe that the out of state hunters have the money to buy a elk tag for at least \$1000.00. Also I believe that you should only be allowed one season. I am positive that there is no where near the amount of elk population.

I think we should do something about the over population of WHITETAIL deer in Montana.

I have never seen a Branch Antlered Bull within 200 yds. During Archery season and I can honestly say I've hiked and hunted my ___ off trying to see one.

Various time this year I saw herds of Elk 25-30 with one spike or Immature Bull. We need to build these herds to have Several Mature Bulls, to insure dominance of Mature Bulls we may have to close all areas to branchantler only with a limited number of Antlerless (No either sex). It is vital that we start getting mature bulls to breed all cows or we'll end up with Elk that are as small as deer.

In comparison to the Elk of the early 1900's or even Alaska the Elk of the 80's are in some cases 300 lbs smaller. Thanx.

Am concerned with lack of mature bulls, aircraft spotting before & during hunting season, rifle hunters hunting in archery season with small caliber rifles & solid bullets.

I'm not sure about the hours spent in area 260 but I put alot of hours in probably more than 80! The ammount of deer is overwhelming. I've seen a few trophie deer in 260 but I think the numbers need to be drastically reduced.

As for the questions about taking a cow or spike first instead of waiting for a bull is that there is no insentive to wait. The chances of coming up with a six point is not good. Also it seem that you are only interested in how many were shot at or killed. There are many times that the elk are close enough but a good

clear shot is not possible. There are good herds out there but the spikes outweigh the big bulls. (six points & better)

It disturbs me (and discourages) to walk as many miles as my friends & I have, and see only a couple or NO elk at all! I've been archery hunting for 23 yrs. (8 in Mont.)(the rest in Colo.) These past 4-6 years are the worst I've seen. I'm not try to sound harsh, but I enjoy getting out & seeing elk whether I harvest an animal or not. Please do something to bring up the count & quality of Elk hunting. So many other states have let their herds become almost "zero" for good hunting - I.E. Most of Herd bulls killed off so spikes & Rag horn is all that left.

Never shot at an elk, but in the last 3 years I was within 50 yards of 6 different bulls. I was within 100 yards of 4 more, bulls.

My primary goal is to take 1 trophy quality bull, which automatically limits my opportunities. I have passed up many shots at cows, calves, spikes in the last 7 years as well as 2-3 younger bulls/year. My real concern is lack of recruitment of bulls. I monitor 2 herds of elk almost year round. In one herd 7 of the 9 spike bulls were killed; in the other 13 of the 14 spikes were killed (rifle season). Where will the future breeder stock come from? I am also finding a decrease in the cow/calf ratio, despite 3 very mild winters.

I believe that a trial program of alternate year closures, of a certain number of districts to B.A.B. only deserves consideration. (I.E. Archery & Rifle Seasons both; even number years, Branch-Antlered bulls only; odd number years spike & B.A.B.s legal.)

I also would support regulations restricting holders of cow permits to cow elk only!

I hunted one (1) 7 point Bull for the last 6 (six) years in area 283 - He's a smart old bird and has made a complete fool out of me - next year I'm going to shoot the first cow or rag-horn that gets in my range!!!!

the # of elk in the area is low unless you work out in the woods so you know where they are. To many doe's populate the woods.

This was my first year. I didn't see any elk, but I saw lots of deer.

I feel that the Bull to Cow Ratio in our area 100-101-103 is acceptable. However, I would like to see an increase in general elk population. This could be accomplished by decreasing the number of roads constructed, increasing road closures during general season, and increasing effort to protect and increase winter range.

Last elk hunt in 1978

Close 640 area to Antlerless Deer only for 1 or 2 years to increase numbers of larger Bucks; saw very few over 4x4 point in 1987 and majority of racks were light; (Rifle and archery closings)

I think a closer watch on big game populations are necessary to ensure that they are safe from extinction in the future, and also so we can't hunt some of them.

I think that there should be more big game and trophy game in different parts that have less population. Thank you.

In most of the areas I hunt both with bow and rifle there are quite a few elk and a lot of Spike and 3-5 pt bulls but few big bulls 6 pt mature bulls, I think too many young bulls are killed before they reach maturity.

I think the bull population could be managed better in the 200 and 400 districts that are adjacent to Bob Marshall and Scape Goat Wilderness.

I don't think anyone is really satisfied by the number of bulls unless they've got one. Most of us would like to see elk as common as whitetail deer, although it would reduce the challenge of the hunt, which I think is most important to the majority of bowhunters.

The Mule Deer Buck to doe ratio in my area is very poor(441-442) And the bucks in the area are of poor trophy quality. Also, getting permission to hunt on private land is almost impossible.

Last year, the weather was too warm, and the bulls were not calling. What bulls I seen, were small spindles.

Our game dept. manages for "quantity" not "quality". Our game populations need more mature males. It has been said from Ekalaka to Troy - but still the game management plan does little to change the situation.

Also-concerning cow elk tag holders - should be required to shoot cow elk only! Lighten up some pressure on the bulls!!

I believe that elk on the CMR are being improperly managed because too many are being taken. In areas where I am allowed to hunt Ranchers are roaming the hills in 4x4's checking cows. I have found elk shot (illegally) & only quartered the rest wasted. I would be willing to give \$2 extra a tag for increased management, and less special permits or no special permits. I am not critical of the Fish & Game, simply concerned about elk #'s.

Sure would like to hunt Elk with a bow, but there is no elk in are Region - so would like to get some information on where an archer can hunt elk in Montana!!

1st I believe there is a decline in mule deer bucks in the areas & hunted this year. Elk numbers seem to be down also this year. I personally believe Montana should have a separate season for blackpowder hunters - possibly before gun season or after - To make it more challengeing, only flintlock and iron sights be permitted - so as not to alarm or cause a furor among rifle hunters.

We need to get some trophy animals.
They are not maturing.

I have been hunting in dist 380 for 10 years and feel that I have seen the quality of Elk numbers and trophy animal increase in that time. However I do not understand the goals of the elk management study in that area. I hope to see the continue & management of 380 for trophy bulls; by permit only, but this should not apply to Archery hunters - Because of the permit only status for branch antlered bulls in 380, I greatly reduced the time and money spent Archery hunting this year.

We need to increase the number of trophy class bull elk.

I would like to see the fish & game be able to shut down any season except in back country in a 12 hr notice so we have no more slaughters on our precious game population on unusually hard winter on bulls. Also I would like to see them manage for some trophies. I would also like to see a archery season for rutting white tails.

There is not enough deer out there to hunt. I might as well not buy a tag, If I don't see any deer.

In general I am pleased with the proposals to increase the elk population for 101. I wish that the proposals included 100 as well but am happy with the steps taken this far. I hope that district 1 becomes bulls only with cow permits

The elk in our area are difficult to find, for me. I have only had one shot at an elk this last season since 1982.

Both sexes should be hunted to keep pressure off killing just bulls.

I feel that if you increased the number of tags for cow elk during rifle season you would relieve some of the pressure on the bulls and we would see some bigger trophies bulls in the woods over the next few years. Concerned Elk hunter

I have lived in Western Mont. all my life and noticed a significant drop in game populations during the 1960's, a leveling in the 70's and increase in the 80's. Bowhunting in

general has become popular just recently, in the 80's. The game populations dropped in the 60's, primarily from disease and Rifles and are at a come back status now. I feel that it is unfair to consider unfounded accusations.

Deer seem to be holding their own against annihilation, but there are fewer and fewer elk each year. Thanks for asking.

Hunted in Districts 312 & 311 along the Gallatin R., observed large quantities of Does and fawns. Bucks seemed sparse throughout the area.

The main reason I hunted with the bow is the possibility of shooting a cow, prompted by the experience of having 47 elk walk by in single file forty yards away without a bull in the herd. The 30-06 in rifle season in this situation was useless! Get the bulls back. Also change the Cow drawing so the same lucky recipients don't get a cow tag every year.

To increase the game try this

I have hunted the 455 and close by areas for over 40 years. At present most of the Deer and Elk herds are gone and have been the last 15 years

The feed is still here in fact there is more now than ever before. as the herds decrease the fawns and calves decrease, with each spring the number gets smaller and the kill by the Bears, cats & Eagles become greater percentage wise. So to take care of the Bear cats & Eagles we need to have more feed for them so more Does and cows bring more food both young and old are used for this food.

If the females are not hunted the herds will come back and every one will have a sport as it should be to hunt the stag.

I would like to see an area put aside for trophy animals 4 pt. or more.

Archery is a great sport. If animals were not so Few in Between.

While I have bowhunted in Montana for only a couple days in one year, I have bowhunted in several other states over the last 20 years. It seems as if elk populations in the northwest part of Montana are not anywhere near maximum or even optimum density.

We need to improve the deer and elk population even if hunting season is closed for one year.

Both hunting seasons should start later in the year, End of Oct. for bow, Rifle in Nov.

Question #9 on page three was answered by lengthing season two weeks by a post season hunt. I would like to see some areas managed for trophy whitetails & have a 2 week hunt for then that coincide with the rut in November & Dec. that would be a great

benefit to alot of archers who have to compete with gun hunters. The same could be done for Mule deer in late season making the possibility of taking a trophy a real possibility.

Although I didn't get an elk archery hunting, I was satisfied with the number of elk I saw, and I intend to archery hunt again this year.

The number of elk in my area has increased in the last 10 years but the number of big bulls has decreased also the number of hunters has increased dramatically.

All thou Ive been archery hunting a very short time, the management of elk in meany of the areas that I hunt seem significant in proportion to animal and forage. I have know way of seeing the overall picture on this matter, the more information that is put out, the more informed Montana hunters will be about this matter. Thank you.

I think elk & deer hunting are very satisfactory in area 101 and would like to see more planting of elk in this district.

The only complaint that I have is last weekend (1-22-88) I hunted Porcupine Creek and the only elk I saw was the elk that the MFWP wardens were moving back into another area by horses.

M.F.G. should pay close attention in the districts 651,650,703 near Ft Peck Sidney Richey Lambert circle areas in the declining populations in the whitetailed deer populations it is sickning. also the state leased land law these areas are becoming over populated P.S. please respond back

The season was unusually warm this year, but it did not seem to effect the deer movement in out area. Deer were, and still are plentiful (Does and fawns).

I hunt South of Hammond in Dist 705 for deer. I was raised in this area, and have never seen so few deer (both mulies & whitetails) in 28 years. All "B" tag sales should stop, plus nonresident, until numbers increase 1/2 to 1/2 times more than they are now.

I hunt area 612 with bow & arrow until rifle season closes. I would like to see this area stay open as long as the other areas in this location. I hunt primarily on the Rookery.

Why are we not transplanting more elk from the park. We have plenty of prime habitat here.

Any one who wants to can Bow hunt or Rifle hunt. If a rifle hunter does not want to try Bowhunting that is his or her option. I was born a hunter & I love the woods & all that's in it and respect it. People want it to be so easy and it never will be.

Even when you are suddenly aware that there are Elk all around you odds are you will not get one.
It's when you least expect it that it means the most.

I feel the Fish & Game is selling our deer down the river. When one person can get 3 deer tags all the Dept cares about is selling tags. When you can ride for days on horse back and don't see many deer, something is wrong. Compared to the fifties & early sixties, there are no deer.

The Excess Elk of Yellowstone Gardner area could be transplanted to areas where there is habitat with low elk population - Several such plants were made about 20 yrs ago. 13 head on my property west of Marion! Also in Lost Prairie & Hubbard Dam area and today we have prospering elk herds as a result!

The excess elk that come out of Gardiner in winter. Be transplanted in other areas.

The Fish and Game should spend more time collecting information on no to low deer areas - the 1985 and 86 season cleaned up a very large number of Deer in Eastern Montana there is hardly any deer left to hunt & access to private property should be worked on by Game dept.

The years I have been able to spend more time hunting and less working I have done ok. So I think the game is out there if you are willing to put in your time and effort.
The game animals have a lot more to lose than the hunter, so it is only fair you have to work for what you get.

Please: Shorten Rifle season! I feel there are too many hunting districts, 100 thru 700 is a good idea but the sub areas could be reduced to 5 or 50.

My strongest concern is about elk tags (rifle season). Go to a drawing for elk tags the same as antelope & stop selling elk tags on demand over the counter., There are just too many people in the woods after elk.

I would rather have a good hunt with less pressure every third year than hunt elk every year & see only hunters.

Also please stop selling over the counter Deer (Doe) tags. I have seen an 80% decrease of deer in my area. There are too many "hog" hunters taking advantage of these tags for their family members. I buy them & throw them away. Thanks for the survey.

I think the Elk population could be increased in some areas by transplanting them instead of having the late hunts at Yellowstone.

I would like to see fewer cow permits in rifle season, were you have native elk only.

Also I think the fish & Game should use a True court system on

elk because I believe there estimated elk pop. are way to high.

In msot mountain hunting areas I hunt in I feel archery season is well regulated. In CMR areas because it is fairly open country, I strongly feel that rifle hunting for both deer & elk should be stopped or greatly reduced. An the deer are almost wiped out.

Our deer population in easten Montana is way down. I dont believe we should have a 88 deer hunting season, bow or rifle. The sickness took its toll on our population.

I think the E.H.D. disease was significant in reducing whitetail population in Eastern Montana. I personally saw at least a dozen dead animals, on only a few days hunting.

Worst deer I have ever seen with white-tails dying & scarity of mulies. No one in this area got a deer with a bow which indicates a problem. Never happened before. Not happy with way elk hunting is handled in the Breaks.

The Marias breaks shere I hunt deer in area 400 should have a shorter rifle season or limit doe hunting so deer can build up again.

I feel this Archery Season was a success even though I never got an animal. I feel 50% of failure was due to the numbers of hunters and 15% due to clearcutting and 45 & was due to the fact there wasn't enough mature bulls to bugle in, and not enough game in these areas.

I saw more Elk in 410 & 700 this last season, than ever before. I believe due to the fact the previous 2 yrs rain kept most hunters out. More Big Bulls and cows w/calf. I saw elk everyday. Never close enough to shoot 60 yds or less.

I wish we could get either sex (deer) with Rifle & Bow. When we had plenty of deer, the rifle hunter could get up to 6 deer & outer staters - now our deer populations are hurting from it. The precent of success with a Bow is very low - what would it hurt to have 2 seasons Sept & Nov. hunts.

Some of your Questions are amazing. They see to restrict not enhance the hunt.

Ask yourself if the our of proportion numbers of out of state gun hunters has hurt our overall hunting experience.

I remember when \$3.00 would buy 2 deer either sex & a elk & Bear tag & ? 38.

Now we have drawing for almost everything. I am a 3rd generation Montanan.

I feel our game is bvery badly in need of repopulations.

My elk area is now branch only. It seems it is a constant draining out great resource.

Unit 260 was voer populated this year, and numerous new articles attracted a larger number of hunters than previous years. Many of these hunters were unfamiliar with the local deer habits, and generally spooked deer out of the kill zone. I'm sure that 260 had a decline in deer kills this year because of that.

In this case (specifically metcalf wildlife refuge) I would support a controlled muzzleloader hunt to reduce populations. I have discussed thi8s with metcalf management and other bow hunters, and have come up with several proposals that might work.

Same a Part II # 1 and 7.

All of western Montana open to the hunting of elk.

Only about 105 of it contane elk in a huntable supplie.

It is my belief that the male (buck) law is bad. The reason is (1) that too many bucks are killed leaving the population with too many un bred does with a gem young bucks to bred without success. (2) Too many rifle hunters shoot at bucks at too long of range nowaday or not sending their game or shooting to fast hiting the doe in frong and learing her there because it is not legal (wasted game). (3) Does are better eating than in rut bucks and antlers are not good to eat anyway.

Too many animals getting killed off in 100,101, 102, and 103 need the season closed down for aobut 5 years.

I feel that if I take a branched antlered bull that I should pass up the next elk season bow and rifle and only hunt deer or bear. This should improve the number of bull's in my area 215. As it si now we do not have quality or quantity of bulls we have so many cows they are haveing a late season hunt.

I would really like to see some general areas for trophy 5 pt or better but it would have to be set up to take into account the movements of the herds because in order for it to work the same regs. would have to apply no matter where the herd was during rifle or archery season. I really believe Colorado had a good idea that way but a very bad idea by allowing unlimited nonresident hunting.

Part III

#6 in my favorite area I am satisfied but there are so many areas that need a lot of help as it is very hard to find many mature animals.

In the last few years the weather had been mild, making the finding of the elk difficult even though they have increased in population.

Suggestions and comments from regions archery member should be reviewed better. Archers know about elk their populations better than the guys down there in Helena.

Sirs,

Elk in my district #333, elk populations have been drastically effected in recent special hunts in past years. Elk are scarce, small in size, and scattered. Elk need better management for strong herds!

I am more interested in quantity of elk not quality such as six point bulls. If I had a choice of shooting cow or six point bull I would take the cow.

Increase elk population and set one district up in the western side of Montana for archery hunting elk only! (No rifles)

Road closures have helped hunting pressure, elk populations are high, but they are becoming harder to hunt. Rifle hunters especially are complaining about lack of bulls, but from my experience there is good population of mature bulls where I hunt. Hunters just aren't hunting hard enough.

Closest opportunity to shoot at an elk was 100 yds which leaves lots of room for improvement on my part, but I was discouraged at the lack of elk numbers in the Northwestern part of the state. I seen only one elk all season, and it was in archery season.

Bow hunting is fine, except for the amount of big bulls and bucks.

Need more elk and bulls in #442-422, 427,-425 mountain meadows are under grazed and starting to turn into old spoiled meadows licks are also growing over and we see less elk in summer and fall.

My party has hunted anywhere from the 1st week to the last week of the season. The numbers of "big" bulls has decreased dramatically. Seldom are spikes seen. A landowner had 180 herd of cows and calves and no bulls. Bugling has also decreased.

Season should start a week to ten days later and should end two weeks before general hunting season. Further steps should be taken to increase numbers of mature bulls-like in elk horns. Expand to more areas.

During rifle season, if a hunter draws a "cow tag" for a bulls only elk area, he should be required to kill cows only-not bulls.

Archery season, take what you can get, but rifle season should be closed to spike elk and open to branch bulls only.

The elk herds in areas 321 and 332 have a high ratio of dry lows vs. cows w/calf.

During archery season, in area 321, I saw several groups of elk. The bulls are solitary or with a small hierem of cows-the spikes are doing the herd siring- the big bulls go high, alone.

I feel the archer should be able to harvest an additional deer, even if it is a doe, for the money spent for archery stamps. In area 380 the ratio for does to bucks is about 100 to 1. Lots of does and few bucks.

Access concerns me along with increased intrusion into remote areas.

We could do with a better bull to cow ratio.

The only way populations will increase will be to decrease the hunting pressure and number of kills-especially lrg. herd bulls and mature bull elk and deer-or-increase habitat, or both-which must be obvious-to the game dept. also- cut back on the \$ spent in the buracracy of the game dept. So they don't have to issue x number of permits to make enough money to justify there jobs and time spent on managing game. The game will manage themselves if they have enough habitat and decreased-if not eliminate the hunting pressure. "Easy job-right".

ON PART 3 QUESTION 6 I ANSWERED NO BEFORE THERE COULD ALWAYS BE MORE. IN UNITS 100 & 101 WE SEE MORE BRANCH ANTLERED BULLS THAN ANYTHING ELSE. IN 3 YRS WE HAVE SEEN ONLY 1 SPIKE IN THOSE UNITS. 1987 ARCHERY HUNT I BUGLED INTO RANGE 6 BULLS. ALL 5 POINT OR BETTER SAW NO SPIKES AND SAW ABOUT 20 COWS. MY PARTNER KILLED A 5 BY 5 IN 101. ROADS AND LOGGING ARE SLOWLY EATING UP THE AREA WE HUNT.

I hunt alot in area 140. I spend a lot of time there in the fall and summer months and I can't understand why the fish & Game continues to give out 100 cow permits at the end of the season. There isn't enough elk in the south fork to warrant issuing any permits there.

I've hunted 285-281 for 33 years. I use to pick the elk I wanted - big bull or cow - now - 1987 - I heard 1 elk bugle in 21 days of hunting - 1984 I bugled in 8 bulls in the same day - 20degrees in AM - 70 degrees later - the largest herd bull in 1987 - A raghorn 4/5 point. (on private ground) I saw a total of APX 150 elk -2 - rags - 2 spikes & 70% remaining were cows - I only saw 10 elk on public- land- 6 of these in Lincoln archery area

I would like to see more elk transplanted over in 100 & 101 form over populaited area's. I understand it cost money to do this but people or hunter's would be willing to donate money to help do

this to increase the populaitoin

The elk populations in the areas I hunt are very much on the increase. I average seeing 15-20 mature bulls every archery season. I also rifle hunt the same areas and never see these mature bulls. Just because mature bulls aren't found in rifle season doesn't mean there isn't any because I know better. Please listen to someone that actually walks the hills and sees first hand. I don't ride around in airplane counting elk by proportioning.

REFERENCE WUESTIONS 12 & 13 I WOULD PASS UP COWS & SPIKES EARLY IN SEASON TO TRY FOR A MATURE BULL BUT LATER IN SEASON I WOULD TAKE A COW OR SPIKE IF THE CHANCE PRESENTS ITSELF.

I WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM THAT RIFLE HUNTERS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ARCHERY HUNT OF VICE VERSA.

I FEEL MONTANA PRESENTLY TREATS IT ARCHERS WELL, AND IN TURN ARCHERS TREAT MT. AS WELL AS IT'S RESOURCE (THE WILDLIFE) RESPECTIVALLY.

PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSURE AND GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH
DEAR SIRs,

JUST WANTED TO MAKE A FEW STATEMENTS ON SOME IDEAS IN YOUR "SURVEY" I AM A DEVOTED ARCHER AS WE;; AS ARTIST, PHOTOGRAPHER AND OVERALL OUTDOORSMAN. ONE THING I WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP IS THE DECISION TO OPEN AN EARLY-SEASON (RIFLE) FOR TROPHY MULE DEER FOR AREA 240 IN 87! I VOTED AGAINST (NOT IN FAVOR) OF THIS DECISION LAST YEAR AT A MEETING OF THE RAVALLI COUNTY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSC. THE OVERALL VOTE AT THAT MEETING WAS ALSO OPPOSED TO THE EARLY SEASON RIFLE HUNT, THE MAJORITY FEELING IT WOULD DISTURB BREEDING ELK HERDS, I HAVE PACKED INTO AREA 240 FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS TO BOWHUNT FOR ELK AND MULEDEER. THE FIRST TWO YEARS I HUNTED A HERD OF ELK IN ROUND CREEK (IN WHICH A TRAIL FOLLOWED) THE HERD #NUMBERS +40 AND I FELT SOME OF THE ELK WERE GETTING PUSHED OVER FROM THE EARLY SEASON RIFLE HUNT IN IDAHO, (AS THE DRAW I HUNTED WAS NEAR THE IDAHO BORDER AND THE ELK WERE NO WHERE TO BE FOUND IN THE SPRING -SUMMER) LAST YEAR I AGAIN PACKED INTO THE DRAINAGE THE 1ST DAY OF SEASON AND SCORED ON A BULL THAT MORNING, THE HERD WAS IS THE DRAINAGE AGAIN AND AS NUMEROUS (+40). LATER IN THE SEASON (AFTER THE RIFLE HUNT BEGAN) SOME OF MY FRIENDS HIKE INTO THE SAME PLACE TO HUNT AND THE ELK WERE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. A CAMPSITE A FEW DAYS OLD WAS FOUND NEAR THE DRAW- WE LATER FOUND APPROX 5 PEOPLE HAD HUNTED MULEDEER WITH A RIFLE IN THAT DRAW. THE ELK? NOT HUNTED BUT PROBABLY BACK IN IDAHO. THAT IS ONE REASON I OPPOSE THIS DECISION, ANOTHER (ALONG THE SAME LINE) IS VERY FEW PEOPLE I KNOW WHO OBTAINED THE EARLY SEASON PERMITS TRAVELED ALONE TO HUNT DEER, MOST TRAVELED WITH TWO OR THREE FRIENDS, WHILE SOME HUNTED OTHERS UNKNOWNLY PUSHED ELK HERDS INTO IDAHO TERRITORY UNNACCESABLE NY HUNTERS WITH. MONTANA TAGS, ANOTHER REASON IS THIS SEASON IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO "PATROL" OR THE LAWS TO BE ENFORCED AND I FEEL THIS

TO BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR POACHERS. LAST AND POSSIBLY OVERALL I FEEL THAT RIFLE HUNTERS ALREADY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT MULEDEER IN THE BACKCOUNTRY THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF THE SEASON WITH NO PROBLEM. ONLY WITHOUT THE CONFLICTS WITH BOWHUNTERS AND GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT ELK.

I FEEL THAT CROSS"BOWS" SHOULD NEVER BE LEGALIZED FOR USE DURING ARCHERY ONLY SEASONS. I DON;T CONSIDER THEM A "BOW" AT ALL. I WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF A BRANCH ANTLED LIMIT ON BULL ELK-ARCHERY AND RIFLE. I FEEL THE NUMBER OF "SLOB ARCHERS" COULD "CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON" METHOD BUT I AM CONCERNED THAT THE REDUCED NUMBER OF ARCHERS WOULD HAVE LESS SAY OR "POWER" AND LOSE THE PRIVLAGES WE NOW HAVE. I FEEL A POST SEASON HUNT MAYIN SOME AREAS BENIFIT WHITAIL AND MULEDEER POPULATIONS. I ALSO FEEL GAME POPULATIONS WOULD BENEFIT IF MANY OLD LOGGING ROADS WERE CLOSED BEFORE THE SEASON OPENED. I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME TO SAY THAT CIVILIZATION IN MONTANA HAS AFFECTED GAME POPULATIONS TO THE POINT WHERE CHANGES MUST BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WILDLIFE. MY THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN ABOUT ARCHERY HUNTING IN MONTANA.

I think that you should put more Elk into to area around Townsend Mt. their isnt enough to go around

In 16 yrs of hunting I have yet to kill an elk. I just cant believe the elk count can be what they say it is in this part of Montana.

I think the drawing on elk should be closed for one year to try to let the elk herd repopulate. I also think their should be stricter penalties to those who are caught breaking hunters laws. I also think they should let out fewer B-tags and try to let the deer population get back on its feet.

Deer populations in Eastern Montana is dangerously low- this must be improved.

The early rifle season on whitetail anterless (doe). Should be discontinued in 331. I seen only 10 does last year during archery season in places where there used to be an acceptable population of whitetails.

Most of the hunters with whom I have talked to feel that most of herds have increased in numbers in the last couple of years.

I would like to see some areas or area in the 700 series for archery only. I would also like to say this is my 1st year but do feel that the hunting of all four species ask about in my opion is out there in adequate #s for those who wants to hunt not ride around.

In the region I hunt the elk population seems to be fairly good. But would like to see more branch antlered Bulls. I would also like to seen the hunting licenses stay with in reason

Chris and I have been hunting for record elk and whitetail-certain area's of 240 have some excellent animals and very little pressure even during rifle season. Very tough to get one! Maybe in "88"

there needs to be more elk in 270-250-321- for hunting. Without having to travel clear over to the big hole

I don't believe that you can hunt the whitetail population in Montana with our present hunting pressures (archery) Also its the best way to take advantage of Deer hunting in congested areas.

Best advice I have is to keep hunters in the woods and keep the up the good works on animal #.

I think Elk herds in Mont. as increased, but we need to hunt more cows and give the herd bulls a break! or we won't have any.

This was my 1st season of archery hunting in your state - I am a veteran bow hunter from Wyoming - My trophy room proves my consistancy - Contrary to local belief there is plenty of game in area 110 - Bulls Bears Bucks are abundant- I wouldn't change anything- KEEP THE CROSSBOWS OUT -THEY ARE POACHERS WEAPONS except when used by the handicapped

I would like to see a more aggressive Grizzly bear archery season initiated the only hunting pressure I experianced was being growled at by a bear during pre-dawn darkness. The thrill of which I will never forget! Road closures on Forest Service land is a good policy - This insures the animals of having a fairly secure place to roam and keeps a vast majority of hunters out (mainly road hunters) cannot wait until next season

This year I hunted twice as long with bow & rifle and seen less game than ever before. Mostly I am sure from dry weather so naturally there is bound to be more game next year

I think the Elk population in 330 is good. I seen a lot of Bulls last year including a 6 point which I shot at and missed.

They need to plant more elk in Areas around Olney, Mt. I haven't seen a elk in all the time I've hunted by bow or rifle.

24. CONFLICT OF OVERLAPING SEASONS FOR DIFFERENT SPECIES.

The biggest effect on rutting elk is the upland bird hunter. One shotgun going off puts an end to all bugling by the bulls, and the elk will move into a new drainage.

I would like to see bird season opened during rifle season because there is too many bird hunters scaring the game.

I think it would be more fair for the bow hunter to have at least one week of hunting without grouse hunting going on.

Open grouse season with the general season so it keeps the poachers and the shotgun noise out of the woods. Sorry for the late reply but I was in Louisiana.

I would like to have the bird season even later. Because there to many bird hunter scaring the game.

It would help archers if grouse and moose did not open as soon as they do. Rifle shots affect the game and puts too many people in the field at the same time.

Hold grouse and pery chicken hunt till the same time as rifle seson not during bow seson.

The season could be 1 week earlier to allow working people to take advantage of scouting and setting up camp and not be in conflict as much with bird hunters.

I think that Bird hunting increases the jumpiness of the Antelope a significant amount.
Possibly we could open Antelope season 1 week before Bird season.

In the Missouri Breaks area gun (bird) hunters should not be permitted on the river bottom in the willows where the archers are.

All the shooting of Rifles and Shotguns during Archery season with Bear and Grouse season open pushes elk into the thickets on North and East slopes. It also effects Bugling by the bulls. I think bugles diaphragm calls plastic whistles and the like to imitate Elk sounds should be out lawed in this state. These things are the biggest reason Bulls bugle very little during the rut anymore. I feel people who won't take time to learn to imitate elk sound with their own mouths have no business out there with plastic whistles ruining the hunting for other hunters. Mature bulls do know the difference when they hear this garbage used.

As noted before in this booklet there is a certain amount of time

in which several rifle seasons coincide w/ Archery season. I do not feel that hunting simultaneously w/ a rifle while there are camouflaged archers out there is a good idea - I have found that those who archery hunt tend to be more management/environment conscious than many who rifle hunt.

Would like to see a minimum bow pull weight (perhaps 40 lbs) for big game. Clarify carrying a firearm (pistol) when bear hunting with a bow - I favor being able to carry one. Don't like opening of Blue Grouse etc, on same date as elk archery - the gun shooting disturbs elk hunting. Having a long term intimate experience of elk bowhunting I have concluded that, in general, bow elk hunting rarely disturbs elk very much in a given area.

Very important

* I would like to see some bighorn sheep permits issued (in addition to the normal) for bow only. The kill impact would probably be very minimal but the opportunity for sheep would be somewhat expanded.

Suggest more trophy management areas (deer, elk)

Have problems with bird hunters shooting during archery season, should open bird season up with rifle season

I think Antelope season in 380 (archery) should not extend into rifle season. It's awfully hard to hunt Antelope with a bow if someone is shooting at them & you with a rifle.

(Q-5) I use a bow to hunt 90 to 95% of the time, however I do use a rifle occasionally to hunt.

(Q7c & Q8E)

I have no problem with a archery license increase if it truly improves wildlife habitat & in so doing increases big game populations. I would not want it to go to other government projects that have nothing to do with wildlife.

Thank you for letting me take the survey.

During the opening day of arechery season is the same day as blue Mountain Grouse. It scared the deer and elk away.

Areas along Jefferson & Beaverhead river bottom have a firearms season for Doe deer during archery season. This has gone on too long. It totally ruins my archery hunting for big bucks once the guns go off!! Besides, enough does have been culled by now.

Additional comments for Archery Survey Jan 1988.

The Branch Antlered Bull seasons in Southwestern Montana are doing a good job of increasing the number of branch antlered Bulls in those areas. I talk to hunters quite often who also hunt these areas with bow & gun. Number of good bulls seen is way up! I feel that for most areas branch-antlered regs. are all that is necessary to grow big bulls.

The riverbottom early doe firearms seasons are totally negating any reasonable chance at big bucks with archery gear once the guns start on Oct. 1st. Besides, I feel and see evidence that

the deer numbers are under control now and even lower than preferred in a few places. Time to pause and roll back those early doe seasons. Most of the ranchers who wanted the does shot will not let me archery hunt big bucks on their places.

I feel Montana management needs to look in the direction of quality trophy animals and expanded bowhunting seasons ie late seasons, and seasons on antelope in 300 districts; positive & creative things!

The bottom line is that bowhunting has little or no effect on game populations while giving the citizen expanded opportunities to enjoy hunting and the Montana outdoors.

P.S. I feel most of the options listed under Question #8 were Negative choices and I oppose all but (h.) I think you should be asking and planning POSITIVE management choices.

I would like to see the bird season opened at some other time, because there was several times I had shots at branched antlered bulls, but bird hunters messed it up.

I think that the hunting in Montana is a great thing compared to the things that take out the hunting, around here are off road vehical takes the hunting out and bird hunting bugs the archery hunting with people who hunt out of season with gun's and scaring the deer out of place's.

As Before, I feel that hunting during archery season with no competition from firearms, (meaning big game riflers & Black Powder), is a great safety factor. Due to the fact that archery hunters hunt in camoflague, and with the increasing number of hunters in Montana, I feel that by having a combined season of any type concerning archery and firearms would be seriously jeopardizing lives.

I see no problems with the archery only season, though living in Cooke City it does coincide with the rifle season. I guess that would be the only thing I'd like to see changed, if only 1 week of archery only up here. Thanks!

I really enjoy Bow hunting in montana. There is always an abundance of game (Deer & elk).

I just don't like competing with grouse hunters, and ATV's. I love grouse hunting myself, but not combined with a quiet sport like bowhunting.

Hey! Let's get your ____ together and seperate bow season from bird season! Who ever thought of putting them together is a real ____wipe!

I feel that people holding moose permits should not be gun hunting during Sept. Require all Bow-Hunters to pass a Bow-Hunting course

Generally satisfied with opportunity to hunt with bow and arrow except for bird hunters shooting in same areas.

Duck season stops nearly all whitetail movement during shooting hours if archery could be moved up 1 week and closed 1 week early nearly all conflict could be avoided. The same is true with special seasons like moose, big horn and goat especially close to Yellowstone park where added pressure pushes elk back to safe ground.

Its hard to archery hunt when other hunters are shooting big game rifles at moose. I think something should be done about the early moose season.

Grouse season is open the same time as archery season in my experience the grouse hunters have a ghrreater impact on the big game herds than do the bow hunters.

Very nice questinnnaire. Hope it does some good.

My only complain is opening of archery and upland game should not be on the same weekend.

It is prety hard to set and wait for a deer or anything when you have everyone shotting up the places. Bow huntingis a quit sport and with guns going off there is nothing around and will not be, that along interups bow seson.

Would like to see more big game archery prior to normal opening and not at same opening time as game birds. Perhpas archery could open one week prior so that elk and deer wouldn't be shot at by rifle/gun hunters during bow season, at least to start.

Please keep in mind the female archer i.e.: type of bow and type of vehicle. I strongly object to bird season being at the same time as elk season as it allows rifles and shotguns to be "available" and you have way too many non-archer hunters who are saying they are bird hunters and are actually elk hunters but not even close to serious. I've seen men bail out of a pickup w/ no camouflage on and head out after some elk who had their tongues hanging out. Sick. We need to open up the North side of the CMR so that the south side si releived of that ridiculous pressure.

I do not like having special hunting season for moose hunters during archery season becuase their are too many firearms being used therefore, people can poach eaiser because bow hunters believe they are shooting at moose.

In the area that I hunted in, the last week gun antelope had started.

This is not right. Archery and gun hunter do not mix. Area 631

and 632.

YOU SHOULD CLOSE EARLY BULL SEASON, FOR RIFLE, ALL OVER MONTANA,
BULLS CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THE COWS, WHILE THEY ARE BEING SHOT
AT WITH GUNS, ARCHERY DON'T BOTHER THEM,

25. ARCHERY HUNTING PRESSURE.

Out of state hunters were in my area (a 2 mile valley) for 5 days straight. The elk were gone, but returned in 3 days. Every weekend locals chased them out, but by Wednesday they were back. I conclude that archery hunting does not chase elk out of an area with good water and feed.

The view that bow hunters wound a lot of elk is nonsense. In the last 5 years of extensive spring scouting I have found numerous winter kills & none "carrying" an arrow or broadhead. I have found numerous elk in rifle season that got away, only to hole up & die. I will be surprised if most bow hunters even get numerous shots at elk. In the group of 8 or 10 bow hunters I know personally only 2 consistently are into elk & get shots or their elk in the last 5 years. I have yet to personally see a solidly hit elk run over 80 yds.

I feel that it is good that the fish & game puts out a survey. I am a little concerned about the way some of the questions were worded in the survey. I find myself wondering what this survey might do to our archery seasons. I spent a lot of time bow hunting I have never wounded an elk with my bow and I know of only a few archers how have I have never found a animal of any species that was lost because of an arrow wound. It seems to be everyone's concern that bow hunters wound a lot of game. I think this is ignorance on some people's behalf that do not understand archery I have killed 21 big game animals with a bow and think guns should be banned.

The only thing that dissatisfies me about archery hunting is the number of animals that are wounded and never harvested. If hunters answered this survey honestly, in part III you could see hits from kills, if they were for the same period of time, and see what I mean.

Although the number of archers has increased recently, there is still no where near as many hunters in the field as in rifle season. This makes for a refreshing and relaxing change.

The only significant archery hunting problem now is with elk. Reduction of #'s of elk archers may now be desirable. The options in II.8. are all valid but in my opinion II.8 c or b would be preferred. There is not any reason to further restrict archery hunting of deer, expect. WT, or antelope. Preserve bugle season + season length.

I don't think that archery hunting in Montana has the impact on Elk or Deer that people think it does, I think that non hunters or rifle only hunters should be made aware of that fact, there are many archers out there that really care about the animals

they are hunting.

I am strongly opposed to stiffer regulation and season length suggestions mentioned in #8 of this survey. It has been my experience with archery hunting in the past 13 years that current regulations allow game and the sport of archery ample balance. As an archer and rifle hunter I have observed that archery hunting has little effect on general rifle season.

I don't feel enough animals are shot during archery season to warrant any changes.

For the average hunter, it is a reason to be out in the woods to enjoy nature.

Would like to see Bow Hunters check there kills.

I have hunted deer off and on for 15 years. With the coming of the compound bow and the congested rifle hunting archery has become big time. This last year hunting elk on the CMR Refuge there were far too many hunters. My companion said before 87 he had never seen other hunters - this year they were everywhere. I was quite disappointed and probably will not hunt elk again.

Hunting District area 170 Being a new B tag area, I want to Thank the Department for the extended season to Jan. 1
I believe the Archer's are succeeding in controlling the numbers of Whitetail when given the opportunity to do so.

Generally archery hunting is good - but becoming too popular.

I shoot only when possitive that i can make a clean killing shot.

Some people believe archery hunting puts undue pressure on Elk. I find it untrue. I've walked into Elk two or three days in a row & found the same elk within 2 or 3 hundred yards of the same place. My personal opinion is that Archers disturb the breeding process about as much as Thunder does (If that much)

Archery hunting does not scatter the Elk as many rifle hunters believe We hunt the same Elk week after week usually within 3 miles, when rifle season starts or Bird hunters shoot, then that scatters the Elk and they are hard to find.

If you would have sent this to me sooner I could have entered for you drawing the date I got this 2-29-88

I think that they should close rifle season two weeks early like you have planned and should cut down on the number of rifle hunters because they are the ones that kill everything anyway it not the bowhunters.

I believe that archery hunters are the most conscientious faction of sportsmen. The ones I know are the "purists" of sportsmen and

should be allowed to pursue both rifle and archery hunting with the least restriction possible. The more the Fish & game applies rules, fees, etc., the less fun hunting becomes.

elk hunting w/a Bow has changed over the last 7 years w/all the new calls tapes vidios etc. a lot more people are afield than in the past. I hunt in the fall for enjoyment w/my bow Ive killed deer but no elk. I have shot 6 Bulls w/my rifle over the last 9 years due in large to the many hrs afield w/my bow scouting/hunting elk -

The areas I hunt in the most the elk population has either increased or remained the same in the last couple years. I don't see much difference in the moving of animals from archery to rifle season. The archery doesn't seem to affect the herd in this area.

The Archery Season as is; is a plus to Montana. If any changes are made it would probably be to the depriment of Archery and this would be bad for the Sportsman of Montana. Archery does not disturb the wildlife like some would have you believe.

Q8 was totally off the mark. People hunt during the Archery season because it's a different way to hunt & it increases their hunting season. Montan enjoy the outdoors and this (hunting) is a great way to experience that. Very few Archery hunters hunt during Archery season because it's productive. It's not. It's the sport. The Archery season yeilds revenue for the state with little impact on the wildlife.

I feel that archery hunting is better than rifle hunting in the respect that animals are not harassed near as much. They also have a bigger advantage because of the limitations of a bow

I (and people I hunt with) archery hunt. On a limited basis. to scout new areas, get in shape for the rifle season and just to get out in the woods. I beleive the season and cost are fine as is for the archery hunting most Montanans do. Also I don't beleive that archery hunting has too much of an effect on animal numbers or distribution

I'm sure some areas in the state have enough bow hunters to move elk out of an area, but not where I've been hunting. I just like to get out early in the season. Shooting something isn't very important.

I think the archery fees are high enough. After all the archer does have to buy a rifle tag in addition to his bow stamp. I don't think the archery permit should be limited. The elk and deer herds are hardly scratched by the archers. How about a special muzzle loader season? After the regular rifle season for both deer & elk.

I think hunting pressure is increasing during bow and arrow season, then people go out with friends, relatives etc during gun season and get one with a gun also.

Let's have more Archery-Only whitetail areas like 260 and 290 to spread out bowhunting pressure and improve archery trophy potential. Excess pressure disrupts big-buck rutting patterns entirely.

I beleive Montana does not have enough Archery hunters, to signifcily pose a problem to rifle season. Future archery could be on a choice Base (Archery or rifle) when the numbers raise more signifcily than they are now.

I do not feel that there is an excessive amount of hunter pressur durring archery season. Many days this year I did not see any hunters. All of the pressure seems to be on the roads.

I feel we must be carefull about getting more restrictive regulations, once we lose some of these priveleges, we will never get them back.

I think the trophy bulls are there if you are willing to pay your dues, put in the time it takes.

I do not think Bow hunter affect game populations. I think there should be Archery A tags & Gun A tags Handicapped people could use cross bows.

Archers should not have to pay more to hunt by buying a special liscense.

Archery hunting is so challenging & difficult, it deserves the considerations of early bow only seasons, Open statewide hunting, and allowing Bow hunters to also hunt in the later rifle season. My success rate has been about 10%, but I find bow hunting very satisfying. I do not feel bow hunting puts undue pressure on the game.

Also, I feel bowhunters are better, more considerate hunters. I have much more success in gaining access to private land as a bowhunter than I do as a riflehunter.

I would hope no changes are made that would harm the archery hunting in Montana.

Questions suggest hunter pressure exists in some areas. I hunt where I only see hunters from my camp. Therefore pressure is not statewide. If you must alter rules, do so where necessary.

Also, if a hunter fills a tag, what difference does it make if animal is killed with gun or bow? One tag-one animal. (re.#8)

I spend a great amount of time bowhunting & preparing to hunt w/bow. I'm an avid archer, however my success rate is probably very indicative of the norm. In my hunting I encounter game animals regularly however due to the variables and the animal's

usual good sense I and other bow hunters don't bother them little or at all. If anything we prob. make them more cautious for the rifle hunters that follow. So I don't believe that at this time we need much more regulations.
My thanks to the MFWP's Front line people, warden's & biologists for thier efforts in improving and maintaining a superb quality for Montana's bowhunters.

There is an increase in archery hunters at present, however I feel that this problem will be solved in most part when the novelty wears off and the realization of the effort and skill involved sinks in with some of the hunters new to the sport. The sucess ratio is far below that of the rifle, archery is the sport of frustration, with high rewards. Thank you

Archers required lots of time to hunt (season length). it can't be done in one day like the gun. Any archer that takes longer than 30 yds hits is asking for a wounded animal. Try to deep all the hard to reach areas open the full length as they are now.
In response to 8i.

I don't feel an archers presents in a back country area has any affect on elk but an area like 621-623- recieves too much pressure. This area seems to also recieve the worst quality hunter - (not that gun hunters don't have their share) I believe the problem lies in its ease of access. And as much as I hate to say it, its possible there should be a marksmanship test at entrance areas.

Due to limited vacation time during the season I am unable to bow hunt as much as desired. I have seen a vast increase in the No. of bowhunters during last few years - the pressure is definitely hurting game populations - don't go overboard though, a 1 wk. shortening of the season is o.k. Also close/limit areas on individual basis.

the amount of animals killed by archery hunters is not the amount of animals killed during archery season. I am surprised by the amount of Violations that go unchecked in archery season. Maybe the Tip-Mont. program will take hold and more violations will be reported.

Overall, I didn't hunt as much as I usually do. The archery season needs to be expanded. It seems the # of people is increasing. I do enjoy archery season and am anticipating the future season.

I feel that something should be done in increase the number of large bulls but I think that the archery season has no effect or little on the number of spikes, but the general season is when they get all the young bulls. I feel a branch antler law is required.

Very glad to see this survey as archery hunting is becoming a very fast growing sport and a way to thourally enjoy the Montana outdoors.

My archery experiences have been rather limited to only 2 or 3 days each year. However, I believe the length of season is more than adequate, and elk and deer taken by archery hunters don't have much effect on the general populations, due primarily to the low hunter success rate.

I believe this State is a good Ten yrs from having to regulate Bow Season. I have hunted 4 yrs with a Bow at about 1-2 weeks/yr and havn't seen 1 other bow hunter. I'm not a purest but still value the bow hunting experience as it is.

As far as Elk hunting with a bow gose, I have been with in range to take a shot seval times. I didn't because I wasn't sure of my shot. I hunted on public land all the time. I think that bow hunters tend to stir up the herds befor rifle season and this might have somthing to do with declining hunter success rate. The last two winters have been easy on them. (The Elk). So there are more animals, but they are all skidish by the time regular hunters get their chance.

In the past three years the number of bow hunters has increased which takes away the high quality of archery hunting. But, I'm afraid that if archers numbers are cut down by higher fees or "either or seasons" that archery seasons would shortened and other wise cut back.

Most areas in Western Montana have too much pressure during archery season, uless your willing to hike 2-4 miles from the roads. If the Forest Service gates were closed during archery season it would help.

I think bow hunting overall makes you a better hunter because of increased knowledge of your quarry & shooting skills required to make a clean kill.

Because of low sucess rates for bowhunters i see no need for restricting hunters to rife of bow only seasons.

I think all tags should required to be purchased before opening day & a small increase in archery fee to provide better habitat for wildlife.

In over 30 yrs of hunting with a Bow I have killed 2 deer with a bow, no elk and have only taken about 5 shots at elk. If other archers have no better luck than I do then Archery dan't be considered a management tool

If I had a choice between archery and Rifle I would chose archery. Archery is more chalenging and requires one to get in close to their prey. Archery hunters never have the high percent

sucess that rifle hunters have and therefore have less impact on the overall game population including trophy animals.

Archery Hunting provides very Good hunter oppurtunity with very little impact on the Resource. I feel the dept. should be looking at ways to expand the Archery season. Not restrict it.

Overall, feel archery hunting is becoming more popular and is affecting elk movements off public land to private land in some areas. Although I hate to see it come, I feel restricitons will be needed in the near future to address this issue. A two week season would only cause greater pressure.

Elk hunting w/a bow is the greatest hunting thrill available in my opinion. I don't beleive archery hunting has a very great impact on populations due to the difficulty of the sport. Please don't shorten the seasons or make hunters choose between gun & archery seasons or districts. Such controls eliminate much of the sponenaety the I enjoy during the season.

I also believe that whitetails are under utilized. Their habitat is well suited to bow hunting. I think there are large numbers of them in many areas. Hunting them when they are not in the rut is extremely time consuming & challenging - success rate is probably fairly low for bucks.

Therefore I wish you would issue more either sex whitetail archery tags. Such tags would provide many hours of hunter enjoyment & minimal impact on game populations.

Please leave the season as is. Although the number of archers has increased in the 100 District, so has the number of Elk. I don't believe the number of Elk taken with Bow & arrow is having much effect on the overall populations.

Many bowhunters will pas up a doe or fawn, when they still have a chance to shoot a Buck with a rifle in a later season. If areas are overcrouded during the archery season, limit the number of hunters in that area only, by requiring a special permit.

Bow hunting just spooks game and pushes them back far enough that it cuts your chances for getting them during the general rifle season. Its not fair for rifle hunters.

I think instead of raising the archery stamp have a heap licenses for archy season the same price as gun license and be able to take deer, elk, or bear on each license. I don't think there are that many animals killed by bow hunters.

I have bow hunted for 17 years but only hunted in MT for elk 2 years I have only been a resident of MT for 2 years. But ahve not heard very many bulls bugle and I do bugle my self last year was not a good bugle year perhaps the hot and dry weather cond. If any of those proposals on page 3-section 8 were posted I would

quite bow hunting

I do believe in having people take a archery course, and the age limit rased. There are to many Low pourdage bows used. Why are archer penalized by paying twice. I would think harvest by bow would be less damaging to the ecology than your rifle. Archers tend to get closer with nature thus try to cause less damage. This survey seems to want to curtail archery in Montana.??The elk are geting smarter every year. It takes more to fool them every year.

Rifle hunters are overly worried about the archery season. I don't think there is as much negative about archery season as there is on the positive side. The elk mostly get educated during archery season. I strongly disagree with the idea that bow pressure effect elk distribution. I chased the same herd of elk all bow season (along with lots of other guys) long and they never left the general area of about 2 sections. We need more walk-in, no motor areas, and I would support branch antlered seasons for rifle, and if there were mroe big bulls I would be willing to pass up spiked bulls during archery season. As it is you are lucky to get even a spike in the area I hunt during bow or rifle season. I hunt there because I see lots of elk, mostly cows, but being in the game is 1/2 the fun. As far as choosing bow or gun, I feed my family venison-If I have to choose bow or gun-It would force me to take the gun-frankly we need the meat. Bow hunting for me is mostly an excuse to stay in shape and have fun in the woods. I don't believe archery hunting has hurt rifle season as much as some believe. It is very difficult to be successful with a bow and think the popularity of bow hunting big game will taper off. I think that archery hunting has increased significantly the past few years and will need to be regulated more as it grows. Bow hunting is a challenging exacting, and exciting method of hunting that too many people don't take serious enough. I feel there are too many people in the woods today hunting with a bow that should not be there but I don't have an answer as to how to change the situation as I feel that the sportsman of today are regulated to death. I don't feel archery has any significant impact on the populations, either in #'s taken or by causing them emotional strain. (If they have emotions) It doesn't shake them up. I've hunted elk for 25 yrs in Mont., Colo., and New Mexico. My profession is in wildlife mgt. As a hunter and conservationist, I believe we need changes in both the rifle and bow hunting seasons. There are entirely too amny hunters afield. Habitat is not the problem, nor is roads, lvstk grazing, or timber harvest. The sportsman has the responsibility to regulate their use of our wildlife resource the land manage is fo rthe most part doing what's right the sportsman needs to do his part quit pointing fingers! We do not have an in exhaustable supply-- It is finite/limited and the sportsman through their harvest methods can have a negative impact!! I'm a veterinarian. This year I condemned 1 elk because of an arrow

wound. And saw two others that the meat was ok on but had also been wounded. I am pleased with the season and rules as they are now but with the increase of bowhunters I think it is just a matter of time before a permit by area will be needed. I hope this is done on a survey by hunting pressure when it comes as some areas are overhunted and some under hunted. It may be needed now. Archery in Montana is at an all time high. If hunting pressure is left at this level without a high jump in hunting pressure it will remain good for years to come. Please submit a similar questionnaire to all rifle hunters, as their impact on elk is the major disruption in an elk's life. I feel archery hunting has a minimal disturbance and impact on an elk's life.
#1 priority: Make the 17000 non res. license available by drawing-no outfitter preference.

I don't think the archers disturb the game as much as a hunter with a gun. Although I do hunt with a rifle I would rather get my animal with a bow. The success rate with a rifle is far greater than with a bow, you aren't as aware of your surrounding, rifle hunting as you are with a bow.

In my hunting district (261) the building of logging roads & the Bitterroot Stock Farm are the largest contributors to the failure of successfully bagging an elk. Archery hunting does not & will never have any significant impact on any game animal.

* #8 - (d) The price of an archery license does not determine the seriousness of a hunter. There are many good serious hunters who could not afford such an increase. Licenses could reach the point where only the rich could afford them & this we definitely do not want to ever happen.

I feel the impact of bowhunting is being overemphasized - bowhunters take a very small percentage of animals compared to rifle hunters. The only impact results from too much access in areas such as the breaks where you can drive out every ridge.

I also feel questions such as how many elk did you hit are invalid without asking other questions such as where were they hit, how far where they followed, etc. Also, rifle hunters have never been surveyed as to how many shots they took & how many animals they think they hit!

I feel archery hunting has little effect on any game animals. Leave it alone

I DO NOT FEEL BOW HUNTERS PRESSURE ELK BEFORE RIFLE SEASON AS MOST PEOPLE THINK. UNLESS THERE IS AN EXTREME AMOUNT OF HUNTERS IN ONE AREA. I DO NOT BELIEVE THE ARCHERS WILL CHASE OUT ELK FROM THERE AREAS.

Archers I feel are very responsible people and really care about wildlife and their sport. Please don't shorten the season. Archers, I feel, are the people that least affect elk

distribution, because of noise & the way they hunt, mostly really care about the land owners, & the animals. My main concerns are outfitters taking over the state, closing roads, buying Montana lands - Its hard for the natives to find private land that isnt leased by outfitter, which mostly house out of atate hunters thats wrong! They fly the land spot animals - thats not hunting thats killing. The MBA members, like myself care about the sport & land, and most of all animals.

Also if we go to rifle or bow season (must use one) many people would hunt with a gun because of greater chances of getting an animal. That would mean fewer archers which would lead to more power for gun hunters. they would get longer seasons, more land etc. Outfitter would again benefit - Thanks for your concern.

Archery hunting seems to have less impact on animal patterns. However with the large increase of people who are becoming archers, the impacts on animal behavior as well as congestion of people in the field is starting to affect enjoyment of archery hunting

the early season, for archer's in the wilderness, have increased so much, has ruined the chance for a big bull in the early rifle season, I do not, think archery should have priviliges over the rifleman, not one bit archery hunters should hunt with a bow by choices not because of priviliges.

Map illegible; seems to be a reasonable number of elk in great bear wilderness; I don't think bowhunters have a significant impact on game populations would like to see a post season hunt, earlier start to bow season

There are to many hunters out there that don't belong in the sport of bowhunting

After the first two weeks at archery season. There isn't hardly any hunting pressure. Leave the archery hunting alone!

I do not know why the fish and game, is trying to crack down on archery hunting. There is no more pressure know to me than their was 10 years ago. and the animals poplation is higher know than was then. to me this is a little bit discrementation toward bow hunters. Also this season rifle hunting was the worst I very seen for pressure. Where the hell is their survey at. as a hunter outfitter and landowner, this sort of thing is uncalled for in the state of Montana. Especially making a man decide between bow hunting and rifle hunting. also some of this questions are ridiculous.

8(c)-I would favor raising license fees only if archers benefitted from the increased revenue. Other than increased hunting opportunity, archers get little management returns for their license revenues.

#13. I sense a growing anti-bowhunting sentiment both within FWP and the general public as elk hunting opportunities diminish. However, I feel archers contribute less than 10% of elk hunting and harvest. If elk have to be managed that close, we're all in trouble. I would also point out that bowhunting probably generates more days of recreation per animal harvested and I feel that bowhunters in general are more committed to the resource and hunting than rifle hunters.

Part III

#3. What the question doesn't show is that in the years I've missed with a bow, I've easily (comparatively) taken elk with a rifle. Eliminating bowhunting probably wouldn't save many elk because a good bowhunter is usually a better than average rifle hunter and will still fill his tags. As far as bowhunting picking off all the big bulls, I've shot 3 each of branch-antlered bulls with a bow and rifle and they were all about the same size-scoring 240-280.

#7. If pressured heavily, elk will go more nocturnal but I haven't seen any evidence they were less active in the rut.

#10. I'm embarrassed to admit I wounded elk but that's a truthful answer. My worst year yet. What the answer doesn't show is that the 2 that got away were nonlethal wounds. My impression is that archers wound more but that the wounds are less serious than rifle wounds. Intermix of total numbers, rifle hunters lose more dead animals.

In all fairness, are you going to hold a similar survey for rifle hunters? I hate to be paranoid but I feel like bowhunters are being singled out in hopes of solving the elk hunting problems.

There seems to be some controversy towards archery hunters. Most people I talk to really don't find it a problem. It's a great recreational opportunity with little impact on game.

I believe we should have to buy a hunting license, before a hunter can put in for any special drawing - I also believe you should not change archery rules or regulation. I know that there are not very many elk or deer taken out of the hunting areas that I hunt, with bow & arrow.

Archery hunting is a quality type of hunting experience. It is important that hunter pressure is not excessive in any given area during the early bugle season (I believe that has been the case thus far).

I DON'T THINK ARCHERY HAS ANY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON ELK HERD SIZE, QUALITY ON ELK, OR DAMAGE TO ELK IN GENERAL BY THE SERIOUS ARCHER. IT DOES NOT EFFECT RIFLE HUNTING IN ANY WAY. DO NOT ALLOW CROSS BOW HUNTING DURING ARCHERY SEASON.

I would like to see more elk population increase, but I don't believe restricting archers is the answer. I personally know of

far greater numbers of elk that are wounded and lost with rifles than with bows.

26. MEAT HUNTER/TROPHY HUNTER.

The way the archery season hunt is now, is as fine and as simple as it seems it can be, why change it? Keep it a simple, fun, affordable sport. I think most of us who hunt, hunt for the meat for the table as well as the challenge it presents us.

I am a trophy bull elk hunter. I never shoot at cows. I passed up shots at several cows and two bulls in 1987. Establishing trophy bull hunting districts and forcing "choose your weapon" restrictions would be the most significant improvements to my bow hunting experience.

I am new to the sport (two years) but am also a meat hunter and would shoot the first elk I could. It's a challenge and I love it.

Elk hunting and deer hunting are our means of putting meat on the table.

I was born in Bozeman and have lived here all my life. I hunt primarily for meat. I think its about time somebody asked my opinion on hunting regs. I was disappointed about new branch antlered only laws for res. It decreases my chance of feeding my family.

Questions #8A - 1) These are very bad ideas. Please remember that most Montanans hunt for the meat so that they can feed their families. It is more than a sport it is survive and a way of life.

Too much management can also ruin game populations.

I wish there were a bigger population of elk and deer as it is used by myself and relatives for food. Our success is important for the meat we bring home. Should issue less out-of-state licenses or increase significantly the fees for them.

I am a serious trophy whitetail hunter. Hunting for elk and black bear is incidental to this pursuit.

I believe that archery hunting in Montana is outstanding. I hunt mainly public lands. I don't believe in paying trespass fees on private lands as long as I live in Montana. There's plenty of trophies on public lands.

I am primarily a meat hunter who cannot take a lot of time off from work to hunt, and by curtailing the season at all would greatly reduce my (and I'm sure others) hunting opportunities. If I seldom if ever get out with bow and arrow I at least have an opportunity to get my game with a rifle - and if I do bag an

animal with bow and arrow, I cannot get more with a rifle, therefore I am opposed to a klocked in situation of archery or rifle.

I feel that archery season enables me to spend time a field Before season to scent the area. Hunting becomes secondary I'am primarily a trophy hunter. I would like to see area's closed to all! All terrain vehicles & maybe a shorter season in the early fall with added days after general season when we usually have tracking snow. Maybe even an alternating season closure for Bugle season on an area Basis.

To Whom it may concern

To answer the question on page 2 #1. I am satisfied to a certian point. Lately in my region (#1) there has been quite a crunch in the elk population. I feel that some of this is posibaly due to archery season.

First of all if you compared the number of archery hunters at the present time, to the numbers in the early 70's and late 60's, Im sure that there would be quite a staggering amount more now. This leads to my theory that with more hunters in the woods today during archery season there are more animals being killed. I also believe, that today with giant influx of people bugling elk that there are more of our dominant herd bulls being killed off, and many of our smaller bulls being killed before they can mature.

My whole point is that in the 60's and 70's the majority of elk being taken by hunters was during general season, and a very few during archery season. But today there is alot of elk killed during general season and also alot of elk are killed during archery season. I feel this is one of our major causes of the dwindling elk counts in my region.

I would like to see the fish and game go to a drawing program for certian areas during archery season in Region 1 such has been done in 6 in the mid 70's.

My sole reason for buying a license is to possibly kill deer with a bow and not my vehicles in area 260. I hunt for meat not horns so most questions don't interest me as a hunter even though I never had a chance to bow hunt in 1987.

I elk hunt mostly to get out and watch the animals. If I do shoot it is for a meat animal (cow) or a trophy. Sometimes I just watch the animal with no desire to kill it at all.

I love archery hunting and hunt to feed my family and would hate to see things changed especially to accomidate trophy hunters. Fewer out of staters would be nice. I also dont feel we as archers should have to buy a special stamp any more than a rifle hunter does.

I am strictly a trophy hunter with a bow. I have high personal standards and will not take risky shots or lesser animals. I

have yet to c? with a bow. I rely on the rifle season to fill the freezer.

I would like to see higher fines for game offenders to keep people honest. Also I would like to see license sales after opening day stopped. It would stop a lot of illegal activities among rifle hunters.

I could have killed several Bear Deer & Elk but passed up the shots For Bigger Animals.

I would like to see archery only for Bear From May 15th - 31st. And I would like to see the cow season in the swan 130,110,103,120 & 102 closed completley until the numbers recover! Thank you.

I enjoy being out archery hunting in the fall. I hunt for fun and for meat to use. I am not a 'trophy' hunter and prefer a cow to a bull. I am satisfied with the archery season as it is currently structured.

I believe the hunting ? are fairly good. There should be some attempts to bring in more out-of-state money, but not at the expense of residents. Most of us hunt for pleasure and enjoyment of the outdoors; but also for the meat.

I use a compound bow but would gladly switch back ro a recurve if we were allowed to use only non-mechanical bows -- advancements in equipment designs is getting out of hand. I favor management for more trophy animals.

Have large family so hunt with Bow mostly for the meat! The Deer I saw were on posted land, & woud have been Long shots for a scoped Rifle!

My success bow-hunting measured in terms of meat in my freezer is nill. Many factors can account for this. I am still learning all the time both in where to hunt and how to hunt with my bow. The biggest reasons I bowhunt are to expand my opportunities for meat in deep freeze. (I don't care about trophies!) and to explore new areas early (before general season) while honing my hunting skills, and being able to hunt legally while doing so just in case of a good opportunity.

Sorry, but I am retired & on my income I hunt for the meat & could care less about the trophy.

Archery Hunting in the area where I hunt has light pressure, which is the main reason I archery hunt. I pass up small antlered animals as I'm more of a trophy hunter.

Elk hunting seems to be pretty good in my district (121). I'd like to see some bigger bulls but I don't think we can manage for just bigger bulls either. I am a meat hunter with hopes of

getting a huge bull. But, I am primarily looking for meat. There seems to be good elk numbers where I hunt. I see a lot of elk during archery season but we don't get real heavy hunting pressure during bow season as compared to other districts. One thing that does concern me is that I think the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks gets alot of pressure from a select few or a select group of hunters to strictly manage for bigger or trophy bulls. I think we should manage for larger, healthy herds that there habitat can carry and to "HELL" with these trophy hunters. If things continue to go as they seem to be headed, only the wealthy will be able to hunt. If this ever happens, it's going to be a sad day!!!

Archery hunting involves many skills, besides frequent practice. The challenge of bowhunting is a freedom and one of the few benefits of living in Montana. I hunt primarily for meat, as one may fish to supplement the grocery bill. When all economic factors are considered, to raise, or even charge for archery hunting, or to restrict seasons, are to again try to control one of the states benefiits.

Bow hunting was a standard when guns were a luxury. When did a charge for a stamp become justified? I think the state should reconsider its veiws on archery. Unfortunately, my bow was the the factory during this (1987) season.

I would like to see more trophy only areas. (4 pt or better). I violently oppose shortening or otherwise restricting seasons.

The taking of large branch antlered bulls could be used in a drawing proceedure - with maybe an earlier or longer season - bringing more money & incentive for trophy hunts.

I hunt to fill my freezer. I was brought up to hunt game for the high quality of their meat and was taught that horns make thin soup. Any animal harvested humainly with the bow and arrow is something to be proud of.

Increase out of state license fee to \$500 for Elk. Charge \$100 a point per side "royalty fee" to all out of state on top of license fee. Exclude all out of state in Big Horn, Goat, Moose & Antelope or triple the fee & charge sliding scale "trophy" fee. Hunting is the pursuit of meat and Joy not horns & status.

The last 2 years I have hunted for the "Big Buck" only. I could have shot at many does and small bucks but passed the opertunity. You didn't ask my age, but I am 50, so I don't work hard at hunting with Bow or Rifle. I just enjoy being out there! I don't try for Elk with my Bow, but would shoot if one crossed my trail.

I have never got an Elk with a bow, if I would have I probale would go for bulls.

Archery hunters, one trophy bull elk every five years non-successful hunters a opportunity for a trophy bull

There is too much emphasis being placed on trophy hunting. I feel that the well monied interest groups are trying to turn Montana into their private hunting ground. No one special interest group should be given preference for hunting in Montana. (including archery). Manage the big game for the average man who needs (meat in the freezer) not for those who could care less about the meat but will go to any length for bragging rights to a set of antlers or horns.

I think its time you started thinking of the people who hunt for food and not trophies when you make your laws some people can't afford fancy hunting trips.

We hunt to put meat in the freezer at a minimum cost. I use 1 wk of vacation time. We camp and keep cost doen. I don't like road hunters. I don't like landowners who charge to hunt and cry later about crop damage to force special kills. I enjoy matching wits and patience with elk and deer during bow season. Thanks for the opportunity to spend this quality time in God's creations.

Part II answers to #2

A.) Weather can be a real hassle - usually hot for care of game - C.) Its hard to get game when other archers are constantly tripping over you - g) is very important to me - we eat the meat, not the horns

I would like to see research done on the impact of archery hunting on the movement, breeding, nutrition & general well being of elk. Do we know what te effect of archery hunting is? I would like to see roads left open to disperse archery hunters as much as possible because I don't believe that archerys significantly impact elk's lives. Casual archery hunters should be weeded out. Herds should be managed for trophies. The era of the meat hunter is gone.

I think too much attention is being paid to Trophy animals, Out of state money I suppose. Trophy animals are not supposed to be easy to find if they are to be regarded as special. The herd as a whole seems to be in very fine shape from what I've seen. Thank you for asking our opinion rather than outfitters & anti.s.

I Feel as an archery hunter I am a trophy hutner. An idea may be too only allow cow harvesting or 5 pt or better harvesting during bow and gun season.

I know a lot of people don't like archery hunting but I think we should give up all rifle hunting before giving an inch on

archery. Reason: larger trophies in future. less wounded animals.

I hunt to eat. I love to hunt and there have been years when I haven't gotten elk in both seasons. That makes it hard to feed my family of 5 but that is all part of it. We don't need any restrictions it is hard enough now. I would like to see Indians follow the same rules we have to. I don't like having them hunting with rifles when we have to hunt with bows. They also take species (moose) we don't have enough to have a special permit on. We might if they didn't kill them off.

I am a trophy archery hunter and pass up a lot of opportunities for meat. Thus, I wish for management for "horns" instead of "numbers".

I bow hunt for the challenge and for a trophy head. If I can't make a good clean shot a trophy animal I pass it up. Archery tunes your skills and makes it easy to get a trophy in rifle season if you don't score with your bow. Bow hunting is far more exciting and challenging.

More trophy bulls and quality hunting experiences is wished for.

I like to hunt for trophy animals I turn down a lot of shots at elk and deer that the average hunter wouldn't pass up. I will always pass up a cow for a bull, and usually shoot at animals larger than 4X4 unless he is exceptional.

Have passed up approx. 30 shots at legal elk in last 3 yrs. Trophy hunt only. Therefore my opinion may be quite contrary to general public. I enjoy hunting much more than "shooting". I believe antler restrictions (minimum 5 pts) as in Colorado would be a great improvement.

I think a post hunting time is a good idea due to trophy hunting.

I don't believe in trophy hunting-I only hunt for meat.

I hunt for meat and every year it gets harder because of the private landowners and all of the logging operations going on during both seasons.

I think we should be able to kill more animals for food purposes. I have a twenty dog-sled team and they require fresh meat. I had to harvest several animals to feed them-I think this should become legal so it isn't considered poaching.

Need more trophy bulls.

I am a trophy hunter if it doesn't have a large rack I won't shoot at it. I won't shoot a cow or doe during archery season or rifle

season.

I believe there is a large number of elk killed with a rifle during archery season

any elk is a trophy to me-why kill off the biggest & best bulls-I am not for having "trophy" seasons

I would prefer the archery season for elk be a trophy season-limit kills to 5 point or better.

Something must be done to increase the number of trophy bulls. The fish & game is too worried about total numbers of elk. We need more quality and less quantity. I would rather see fewer total elk and more big bulls.

I do not believe that it is possible to increase the proportion of trophy animals in the elk herds without severely restricting the existing rifle hunting of these animals.

If you want to do something open up the access to the forest lands and quit trying to make hunting into a rich man's sport there are still some people who go out for the meat

I use the Archery season to extend my hunting of whitetail deer. It allows me to search out a larger buck, for more days afield. I figure that if I'm not successful with B & Arrow I can easily shoot one with a rifle during the regular season. The last deer I shot w/ bow was almost 10 years ago. But every year have numerous close range opportunities (30 yds.) to shoot at whitetail bucks of 4 points or less. I hunt for larger bucks during the Archery season.

Too many hunters are going for trophy elk only. Special permits should be issued for trophy or branch antlered bull elk. And allow all hunters to try for spike Bulls and Cows. No crossbows!

Due to my health I am only allowed to eat wild meat. I enjoy hunting in Montana for deer elk & antelope. I am not in favor of trophy hunters and do not trophy hunt myself. Keep up the continued good work

Being a beginning bowhunter, I feel I am not currently qualified to dictate how others hunt. But, being a great fan of hunting, bow or rifle, in Montana, I feel it is my duty to defend my current rights and privileges. Thus, I feel that I should have the right to decide to hunt either way. I hunt for sport, challenge, enjoyment, exercise, but most of all, for food! I would prefer things the way they are, for now at least.

I realize you people look at hunting as a business. I love to hunt, hike, pack, skin, gut, butcher, & eat elk. Please don't

change the most exciting sport I've ever found. Some people like horns, I like meat.

I am a meat hunter and I always look for meat not racks when I hunt. I don't bugle elk because it is against my personal teachings of man after animal and I like to use my own abilities to get within range. thank you for this chance to participate in this survey.

I began hunting when I was twelve. It is fun & exciting, but mostly it was for the meat. Being from a large family it helped financially. Now I have quit bird hunting because of the outrageous prices for licenses & ammo. I can now see the way all hunting is heading towards; rich people only!

Trophy bulls are the utopia of archery hunting. Next is the wonderful gift of the land in which they live.

I would like to see more trophy animals and better control of off road vehicles.

This off road vehicle use will have to be a joint effort between fish & game, forest service, BLM, landowner & hunter.

I do not hunt for trophy bull elk. I just soon have a chance to bag a cow elk for better meat.

To hunt with a bow does give me this opportunity.

I think hunters who just hunt for the prize bull are dangerous to the elk or deer population in Montana.

27. APPRECIATES WILDLIFE AND THE OUTDOORS WHILE ARCHERY HUNTING.
ENJOYS THE CHALLENGE AND THE SPORT ITSELF.

Sorry some one fouled up, as I didn't receive this when you say I should have. I enjoy bow hunting more for the opportunity of being in the great outdoors. Killing a big game animals is not #1 with me. No poor chances and consequently no wounded animals.

I mostly go out during bow season to watch the elk and listen to them bugle. Just an enjoyable time of the year to be out.

I do not have the time to fill out this form. However, I hunted on Ft. Keough land aprox. 3 days for deer, no luck - around 3 days for elk in area 410, no luck - elk - no hits. Don't remember how much money it cost other than license fees - or time. Enjoy the sport and don't really care if I get one or not - enjoy trying.

I like to archery hunt because I enjoy being out when the elk are bugling and the autumn colors are at their peak. I don't see a vehicle at every wide spot in the road. I haven't killed an elk archery hunting yet, but I'm out there most every weekend, most of the time we camp out.

I hunt with bow for the challenge. I passed up numerous shots that were questionable. Archery hunting is not my meat hunting method. I feel good even without a kill.

Even though I didn't shoot at or get an elk, I love to bowhunt even if I don't get one! I just like being out there! Keep up the good work!

I like to be in the hills hunting. Archery season helps me get to know the lay of the land and see what the animals do.

I enjoy elk hunting with a bow. A close 25 - 30 yard shot at a cow or calf is just as thrilling as that at a huge bull. The meat tastes surprisingly the same and both in my opinion signify "quality hunts". Don't mess it up!

The success of this year's hunt is not measured by the size or number of animals harvested. During rifle season I hunted with both rifle and bow. From September to December I did not harvest one animal as a personal choice. I have about 30 days afield this year in Montana, and I enjoyed them all.

It is a pleasure to hunt in Montana with a bow. I've never experienced to thrill of seeing, smelling and watching elk at such a close range, never have shot at one but I have come close, maybe next year. Thanks for this pleasure!

Archery hunting for elk in Montana to me is the highlite of the year. I use archery hunting for sport and to feed my family and I for the whole year. Archery hunting gives me an idea of the location of the elk so if I don't get one with a bow, I always get one with a rifle, 4 out of 4 years. The BAB problem is something that is very complex. There are fair number of BAB in my area. To me elk hunting is one of the greatest things in the world. Between the bow season and rifle season I hunt almost 60 days a year. This only can happen in Montana! You are doing a fine job of management. PS, don't ask my wife's opinion of this subject.

Most bow hunters I know are very responsible people, sensitive to the areas and the game they hunt. They are people who love the outdoors and would appreciate the beauty of being close to the outdoor creatures as much, maybe more than killing them. Those hunters maintain the caring on into rifle season, they are for the most part the F W & P best friend.

Archery hunting is very important to me. I train physically and mentally for this sport. I am very dedicated to archery hunting and would hate to see anything happen to decrease my opportunity to pursue big game animals (especially elk) with bow and arrow. Without the release of stress and tension (that the job world creates) that I get from bow hunting, I truly believe I'd suffer a mental breakdown.

I hunt with a bow for recreation (not for the meat!). It's a great time of the year to be out in the woods. It's good scouting in preparation for the serious rifle season.

I'm new to the sport and I must say I like it very much. It offers me the chance to hunt in undisturbed woods and animals.

Love to shoot my bows and get out in the mountains and enjoy Montana at its best.

I enjoy bowhunting in Montana. I have been bowhunting since I was 15 years old. It's a great way to see outdoors and enjoy the forest. My family loves elk meat. Helps with the lack of money in winter.

1987 was my first year of the sport. I had a couple of opportunities to take an elk and deer and antelope. Took none but had a great time and will definitely continue in future years. The sport definitely enhances ones understanding of wildlife and appreciation of same.

Archery hunting pressure has increased in my area probably 50% in the last few years. I like to archery hunt because I live in a good area and can watch the elk from my house.

I think Montana's hunting is very good, it gives challenge, along with wilderness, and isolation, but even the best has room for improvement. All in all I would rate the hunting excellent, management average, public attitude - poor. The only way to improve public attitude is to walk the critters to them. Thanks for the chance to voice my opinion!

Hunting with a bow is not for the meat but for the soul.

I go archery hunting because it gives me an excuse to go up in the hills and breathe good clean air. And I like it because it is good exercise and if I ever get anything with a bow you'll hear my whoopin clear to Bozeman.

I love bow hunting for elk. I have missed some beautiful shots, but I still enjoy the sport. I feel very fortunate to hunt elk in Montana.

Part III #11 - Depends a lot on wheather elk feel the pressure. Have had many with in 40 yards that didn't know I was anywhere near. Situations as such do not pose pressure. If I chose not to shoot I just stay still and enjoy watching. I love the meat but I enjoy the memories a lot more. Thanks for including me in this survey. PS, I have also lived and hunted Utah and Idaho. Personally I would prefer to hunt here at home.

I have killed many elk with a rifle but archery hunting is a new field for me. As of yet I haven't connected with an elk but I have very much enjoyed the experience. Personally I think if the regulations were drastically changed it would rob people like myself the opportunity to try archery hunting. Thank you for the opportunity to express myself.

I've killed many elk with rifle and use the archery season as a way to enjoy mnts. at that time of year, get into good physical shape and observe elk populations. I'd like to see more road closures to all terrain vehicles and 4x4 trucks to limit disturbance of elk.

I'm looking forward to more archery hunting. Missed my chance at a 6 point bull. Great sport and exciting.

Normally I archery hunt much more in Montana. But in 1987 I went to Alaska for a couple of weeks. So far I can say that when shooting at elk I either miss clean or get a one shot kill. I've learned more about elk and hunting thru archery hunting than I could ever learn thru just rifle hunting.

I enjoy bow hunting because I feel most archery hunters are concerned for the species they hunt. I am always in favor of increasing hunting areas and hunting access.

Archery is fun and I like it alot. I can get out before general season, get familiar with some land and maybe fill some of my tags.

Thanks for thinking of the bow hunters. Great way to get close to animals even if you don't shoot. A bow season during the post season would be fantastic. A chance at a big animal after they settle down from the general season and during the rut.

It was difficult to answer a few of the questions because this was my first year to archery hunt. I found this type of hunting difficult but rewarding and very exciting. Am looking forward to the 1988 archery season.

Archery hunting has suffered from growing pains. Too many good archers too quick. If we limit our equipment I think we can still have our long seasons. Quality hunting time is what archery is all about. Too many new archers have confused archery killing with archery hunting.

Very enjoyable sport. A chance to see the animals before they become conditioned to the pressure of rifle season.

We did not hear any bulls bugle this year, but I understand the weather had a lot to do with it. Being my first year, I really enjoyed hunting with a bow even though I didn't get an elk.

Archery hunting gets the hunter back to basics. Even if I have never shot at an elk, I have the satisfaction of knowing each year I get a little closer.

I think I enjoy archery season more than rifle season because I always see deer and elk when I'm out hunting because there isn't as many bowhunters. I like to see the game even though most of the time I don't get a shot with the bow.

Archery is one of the most satisfying sports If ever started.

At my age its very nice to be able to get out. I enjoy the relaxing in the sun on an open hill side or park; but still need the excuse to get out. Getting something any more is secondary.

Bow is fun because you work hard to get closer to games than rifle - I enjoy Bow alot's exercise & quiet & patient.

I am over 70 yr. old & I love to hunt & be out there in the wild life.

Thank you for helping us to be there.

I had Fun and enjoyed it more than rifle season even though I got my game with my rifle.

I certainly wonder why this survey & a rifle survey wasn't done for all rifle hunters as well. I am sure the results would be interesting. I believe that Montana has excellent archery seasons & I hope that the MT Dept. of FW & P continue to work to provide archery opportunities to hunters.

Archery hunting is simply a beautiful experience that is much broader than rifle hunting. It provides the hunter the opportunity to become much more in tune to his quarry & to appreciate the beautiful falls in Mt. while providing the great challenge of attempting to harvest animals on a one-on-one basis.

Didn't really get a chance to go as much as I'd like to have. However really enjoyed the time I went!

Archery hunting lets me get out to enjoy the early fall weather, see alot of game that is not seen after the general rifle season opens. If I had to choose either archery or rifle I would choose archery. The \$2 increase in question 8E. would be ok if also applied to general licenses, or applied to archery only areas.

I have only hunted last fall with bow but I enjoyed it very much and plan on going again next year.

I have only been archery hunting for 1 season - I think its great - I really enjoy the chance to go out and hunt Big game with a bow - There is not a lot of people Running all over with 4x4's and ATV's Like there is during general season - From the other hunters Ive talked to, I don't think the archery harvest has hurt any population -

I like the season, fee, and Districts Just like they are now!!

I enjoy just getting out in the mountains and just seeing and talking to the Elk is more satisfying than shoot one. But wood be nice to shoot and to kill.

I am not an avid Archer. If I see an Elk that is fine. If I get a shot, that is frosting on the cake. I have only shot at one elk in my life & that was 20 years ago. I do not archery hunt every year.

I have over the past 35 years taken Elk - 6 bulls 4 cows - It is my dream to get one 3 year old Bull Elk before I go to the Happy Hunting Grounds with my trusty bow.

All in all I think the Bow season is in good management and I hope to do better next year. I truly love Bow hunting.

I have been an outfitter in the past and this was my first time I had time to take a few days to relax and camp in the fall. the weather was great and I really enjoyed being out scouting and if I got a shot fine if not fine - It was Great I seen 7 elk one day and 4 another. I didn't get a shot but it was great. Sorry Im

late.

I enjoy bow hunting a lot more than rifle hunting its funner and their are fewer people. It is one of the few chances the avarage person has at quality hunting without having a guide.

If you consider me a typical Archer, Then the record shows I have not reduced the number of animals by much. I have enjoyed quality experiences without hurting game populations. This fact needs strong consideration.

I really enjoyed bow Hunting. I only shot three times but the suspense and unknown was worth it all. I definitely am going this year if I am still in Montana. I believe there should be some kind of benefit (lower tag fees) For military members. Every where else gives Military discounts.

I am just a novice archer & just like being in the field to see and monitor wildlife. Also the chalange to get close enough to the game is sufficient even if I don't get a shot.

Thank you for the opportunity of participating in this survey. Although this was my first archery hunting season, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience & plan to repeat again this next season. Thanks again.

Bow hunting and rifel hunting is something special to me. It gives me a chance to get into the wilderness more. I hope my filling this pamphlet will help you with your servay. I shot my first deer up on Mundeen in Townsend this year it was a 2x3 I also got a doe with a rifel thanks

Archery hunting to me is a very precious time to be in Gods handiwork and enjoy the "Quiet" of the woods with limited hunting pressure during the prime of bugling season. The bulls are bugling about the same as always but not coming to the bugle nearly as often as pass years!! Some bulls will come to the bugle that would be "To Easy" with a rifle - but no shots at all with a bow because of various circumstances exa: brush, distance, stance position wring, trees, moving, looking right at you, catches you off guard, directly behind you Etc. Thanks,

I was within 40 yards of a 4 point bull in heavy timber. I will not shoot unless I am within 40 yards and am sure I will get a good shot. I think too many archers are shooting too far because of compound & cambows. I think crossbows would cause too much hunting pressure and too many elk harvested. I bowhunt mostly for sport and enjoy the time of year and studying elk in rut. I have been within 10 yards of cows and calves and sat for 2 1/2 hours in a stand of trees in the middle of a herd. Bowhunting offers me one of the most satisfying and stimulating activities I've even been involved in. I hope it remains as economical and

pleasurable when my boys are old enough to learn the true art of hunting.

I very much enjoy hunting with my bow. Even though It was my first year I had a very enjoyable time hunting. Archery hunting has brought me alot closer to the out doors & I've gained much more respect for the animals because of bow hunting. I plan on having many more year of enjoy ment bow hunting. I hope my answers have been some help to your servey. But I guess I do believe that the well being of the big game animals should alway come first.

Elk are my preferred Game for Archery. However they are big & smart, the conditions have to be just right or I do not shoot. I often am close enough that with a rifle it would be no trick to down. But the ambience of the sport, the exiliration is hard to describe. It is a great and enobling experience even if not successful. I cherish the outdoor experience.

I hunt with a bow for pleasure and to get out more often and don't care if I kill anything. I killed 9 deer in the last 10 years with a bow and I don't care if I kill anything but a "nice" buck because my family is tired of eating them. Elk hunting in my area is so limited here for general season that if it is restricted during archery season, I would probably quite hunting & just buy beef.

Archery hunting is a more personal hunt than hunting with a rifle. You must get closer and need to use more hunting skill.

Archery hunting is the most challenging of any other kinds. Once you stalk with a bow shooting with a rifle seems like that should be made illegal.

Archery Hunting Allows me to tune up my hunting skills. Stalking, Tracking, Bugeling and Hearing. I enjoy being out in the woods and if I see an animal I'd like to take I can try with a bow.

I'm sure I'm not the only novice bow hunter, but I feel that archery hunting is already challenge enough without having to wait for a spike or cow to come within shooting range

I enjoy Archery to the fullest, Being my first Year I would like to see everything stay the same. Its by far the most exciting and fulfilling hunting anywhere.

The Elk hunt is very challenging because you hunt alone 90% of the time. You also have to be very close for any type of killing shot. I haven't killed an elk yet, but just seeing them close is very satisfying.

Its important that we limit the sport to those that are sincere; to those who caught and will catch this wonderful bug. I gave 100% to hunt archery this year and got 300% back - without the elk, bear and antelope - and if hunting archery becomes furious as it is now during rifle hunting , I would just as soon head out with a camera during August.

Each year I spend more time archery hunting. It is a great sport. I plan to take a week of vacation to hunt in '88. It is a privilege to help with the survey. Archery hunting is something worth working for & supporting.

I saw alot of elk this year, but the bugeling was slow. The weather could have had alot to do with that. I like to get out this time of year. even if I never kill an elk. good survey I will help you any way I can.

Mainly Bow Hunt to enjoy scenery and weather

I have hunted for 18 years with a Rifle. This is the First year I have hunted with a Bow & First Year I have hunted big ame. I will never hunt again with a rifle. It is so much more satisfying hunting with a Bow. I did not have to worry about being shot by another hunter. I have heard stories about bow hunters taking poor shots & leaving the animal to die. I think there should be stiffer fines for these people.

I will give up my gun season to hunt with a Bow. I will do as much as I can to protect my PRIVILEGE to hunt with a bow. You have my support.

Ive been hunting with bow and arrow for 2 years now and Im just getting really involved in it. I enjoy the calmness and the silence of bow hunting. Hopefully someday when I fill this form out, Ill be able to put an S in the trophy bull space.

I am 45 yrs. old, & have been archery hunting for about 14-15 years. I have yet to take an elk with a bow, but I anxiously await each season. I have passed the stage of having to prove my ability to anyone, but would certainly hate to lose any part of my favorite sport. I average taking Bull elk about every other year in the rifle season. I credit my hunting success by becoming a better hunter through archery. Many young hunters lose interest in archery, because of lack of success. Most seasoned archers are very conservative hunters, and good sportsmen. After 14-15 years you must admit I enjoy the hunt! I have successfully taken deer & antelope in past seasons.

I enjoy archery hunting in Montana because of the great hunting experiences.

Its about time Archery hunting got looked at.
If done right it is a very time consuming, rewarding activity and

definitely not for everyone.

I derive most of my pleasure from being in the outdoors among the animals and observing them; being able to stalk w/in 30 feet of them etc., not necessarily killing them. Several of your questions imply that I'm not a serious hunter and your thinking about restricting my hunting privileges. I believe that archery season should be open for anyone who wishes to take advantage of it. It is much more challenging than rifle hunting and I derive a great deal more pleasure from it then from rifle hunting. Nearly all of the archery hunters I've been associated w/are very serious about their hunting. Those who aren't serious about it aren't successful. (I define successful as seeing game and either being able to stalk close to or call the game to you.) and soon quit.

Too much is being made of the archery season as a problem for the elk and for rifle hunters. The hunting opportunity is great for man/days of recreation but the harvest is low. Hunting pressure is both light and quiet. It doesn't blow elk out of an area the way rifle season does. Wounding mortality is highly over-rated and wounding loss reports should be tempered by the fact than an arrow at 50 yards is visible in an animal while a bullet is just as invisible at 50 yards as it is at 500 or 1,000 yards, shots that rifle hunters take and shrug off as a simple miss. The notion that if you can see them, you can get them is still alive in the elk woods of the rifle hunter. That isn't the case in archery season, especially as bowhunter education becomes more widespread, and never will be because of the limitations of the weapon. In short, what the archery elk season offers is the chance for a close encounter with the greatest game animal that Montana has to offer without hurting anyone and without necessarily filling a tag.

I love to hunt. I would prefer everyone bow hunt. and longer hunting seasons available to all - But. that will never happen - So, because I love to hunt I'll utilize both seasons as much as possible - Im always sad when my tag's are filled, but I need the meat in the freezer also - and cannot pass up a shot when Im sure of a kill-

I thoroughly enjoyed my first year archery hunting with my 15 yr. old son. We had a chance to shoot at a cow and two calves but passed it up. We talked to one bull but did not get close enough to see him. It is a challenge and great fun even though we didn't get a shot. It's a fun time of year just to be outdoors. I'm looking forward to next season. If I get an elk or deer fine, if I don't I'll enjoy the outdoors anyway. I don't think archery hunters at this time hurt the elk population at all. Please leave the seasons as they are.

I cannot tell of the joy archery hunting has meant to me. Could

have had a cow this year, but since the two elk I have killed (one arrow each) were cows, I wanted a bull. Had a opportunity for a 5 point this year, but was unprepared. I am 62, and hoping for many more years of archery hunting. Thank you for your work.

Although Ive only bow hunted for two years Ive found it very enjoyable because of the lack of compitition & not neccessarily for the hunt but for getting close to the animals & being out in the fall of the year.

As one who archery hunts for only deer, antelope, and turkey, (not elk), I am very pleased with present seasons, regulations, and fees. Please focus your management efforts on three matters: 1) Keep cross bows illegal forever during archery season 2) Reduce vehicle access to public land by about 50%. Do whatever is necessary to get people to hunt on foot or by horse. 3) stop the increasing trend toward preserve hunting and private fee hunting.

I have bow hunted on the prairies of Eastern Montana for 15 years. I have killed only 3 deer, 1 antelope, and 1 turkey. I could have killed a deer every year. Instead, I have chosen to just enjoy the 5-10 days of walking, beauty, and peace which only bow hunting affords. Thanks for all of that fun, and I look forward to about 25 more years of the same.

Although there are many reasons I enjoy Bow hunting the most is just spending so much time around them the elk. With a gun you just up & kill I don't gun hunt too much anymore, but I don't feel that shouldn't be able too. I'm against opening the upper Ruby 324 I don't feel we bow hunters bother the animals too bad.

I enjoy the outdoors especially during hunting season. I'd like too see more elk in my districts in the future. I'd also like too see more gated roads on Blacktail Mo. neer Kalispell and emideate areas. Bow hunting is a great sport if it is not abused and managed properly.

This year is my 1st year hunting elk in area 202. The bull to cow ratio is very high and I feel the Fish Wildlife & Parks have managed this area very effectively. Archery hunting is a challenging & fun way to address close range stalking, observation, and education of all species of wildlife. My sons who are not old enough to hunt enjoy learning about animals in their undisturbed natural environment.

This year I plan to use my bow a little more than I have in the past. Possibly even purchase a compound bow this year. This year I hope to get some game with my bow. It the best way to hunt.

I enjoy my archery hunts over rifle hunting because it is more of

a challenge to me and I consistently see more game, i.e., bigger bulls and bucks. With the increased number of archery hunters I am sure some changes in the regulations will be necessary.

Even though I didn't get an elk with my bow, I did see plenty of animals including some moose, a bear, deer, and some goats and to me that was worth getting out in the early archery season. Also had a couple bulls bugle 15 or 20 feet away if that far but the foliage was too thick for a clean shot and that was worth the early season hunt also even though it made the hair on the back of my neck stand straight up.

I have hunted all my life & killed my share of game I'm 69 years old and started archery 5 or 6 years ago. I enjoyed those yrs. more than all the rest put together. the years are taking their toll hope I get 1 or 2 more seasons in thank you.

I hunt deer and elk each year and have always enjoyed my archery season's & been satisfied whether I harvested any animals at all. My friends hunt for the same reason's & I hope that less emphasis is spent on harvest & more on enjoyment.

Archery is a year around sport. It is inexpensive and takes as much time as you have available. It is quite less dangerous. If archers take care in shooting I believe that there would be very few wounded animals. You really get a chance to be close to nature a wonderful feeling. I like it better than rifle hunting. Sorry to be late I was down south and thought it was too late to send in. Just received the notice -

Hunting of any kind is a true form of enjoyment. Archery hunting is more of a challenge. It's a time to get out when there is a lot less hunters out. Thus the game is a lot less scared and a person can see a lot more game out while hiking in the woods. I would like to help in any way to keep this sport alive. I don't believe in poaching which I think is the No. 1 problem. Also the wasting of game.

Hunting is what you want to make it? fun and see beauty that God has made.

I love the Archery season. I get out & exercise find & stalk big game. Gun season removes the stalking as in sight=in range then. If you look at this it related to fly fishing vs worm fishing. A hunter can only take one Elk & deer a season (special hunts excluded) the animals are increasing & the harvest was not up in proportion. Killing big game with a Bow is difficult many skills & much knowledge is required. You could reduce the difficulty by making the crossbow legal - I would not want you too! the range is too long to know no hunter is there.

I prefer to hunt in wilderness and have noticed more archers in

my areas in recent years. This has affected the elk by making them more wary. At the same time, I get into more big bulls and more elk in general than I did in the past. I feel that privatization of public land forces concentrations of hunters, to the detriment of the experience. Still, much of the wilderness is lightly hunted. As long as people overeat, are afraid of the dark and of being alone, there will be places in #311 and #301 where I can hunt elk and be alone. Thickets and steep terrain, plus the lack of horse trails discourage the average archer. I hunt with a longbow and feel that there are many compound bow shooters in the woods who, because drawing their bow is easy, don't practice enough to deserve to hunt elk. I think more elk are wounded by archers than killed outright. I also believe many archers who complain of hunter congestion and that bull elk don't bugle anymore are the same people who go to the easy, logging road accesses such as Squaw Creek in #301. If they would climb a couple ridges of thick timber & spend the night they would find elk and fewer hunters.

This was my 1st yr hunting with a Bow, loved it. Killed cow elk with rifle enjoyed Bow hunting a lot more than rifle hunting.

Most important aspect of Bow Hunting is the challenge, and the outdoor recreation at a beautiful time of the year.

1987 was the 1st year I hunted archery hard. 3 days in a row I saw the same 6x6 bull. The 3rd day I missed getting a 10 yd shot when he turned off the trail 20 yds short of my set-up - And he never knew I was there. I am now hooked and can hardly wait til next year.

I don't feel archery stamps should be required. A hunting license should be all that is required.

I have never killed anything with my bow. I will not shot unless the animal is real close and I am sure I have a killing shot. But I very much enjoy the opportunity to go out and participate in the sport and I hope that I can continue to enjoy it, without it getting financially prohibitive. I can't go often so I don't really plan on killing anything. I just like the opportunity to go when I can get babysitters and go.

I think archery hunting should be the Armerican sportsmans priviledge to hunt forever. I think he should be able to ;choose the equmpt that works the best for him to ensure clean quick kills. Archery hunting sharpens hunting skills, game habits, and basic outdoor enjoyment.

Archery hunting is a very well satifying way to hunt. If you bag an animal it is because you did your homework. Archery hunting never has a serious affect on the trial game populations, so I see no reason for having to choose between bow

or rifle!

I've gotten to stalk elk & deer each year I've gone out. While I've never hit anything, each trip to the "Breaks" or Larb Hills has always been a great thrill.

I have never been very serious about Bow hunting as it is a chance to get out and hunt grouse, see wildlife, ect.

We need to instill in people that Bowhunting is an attitude, not just another way to kill an animal. Lord if all I wanted to do was kill an animal, I wouldn't bowhunt. It is an attitude of anticipation within self-imposed limits. The more limits the better a woodsman (person) is made.

Please don't allow this to become only a rich mans or lucky man (drawings) sport. The hunters who continually get bull elk have the time to hunt & generally are the same ones that accomplished this with a rifle in the past. Also, the elk have become smarter. because of increased calling but isn't that the point the challenge! I doubt I would be inclined to hunt them if it were easy. Success would never be so sweet again.

Archery hunting is a good sport It gives the animals a fair chance and hunters that are not real serious only last year or two at the most Because it is not jest a mater of finding the animals you have to stock them and it puts you against them. unlike Rifel hunting - this season could be shortened and it would not hurt my feelings a bit

I believe Archery hunting is the most safe source of hunting their is. Landowners are less leniant on Bowhunters and all more apt to let them hunt as opposed to rifle hunters.

I enjoy hunting with a bow. It gives me a chance to get out in the Mountains when it is nice out.

I totally enjoy archery hunting whether I get game or not. I am very satisfied with current rules, seasons, etc.

I primarily hunt Buck deer. A few times I do venture after elk. Deer are plentiful where I live and do have a lot of Access. Archery Season for me is primarily good time to get in shape, see game, and generally enjoy myself. I am not a kill crazy nut, as some of the hunters (ethier Archer or Rifle) I have encountered. Note: I do turn in any illegal Action I may encounter.

I enjoy Recreationalunting

If only this point could be stressed to others. It would eliminate a lot of problems.

Archery hunting is exciting and fun. I like the season of Archery before the General season of rifle because It alows me to

scout hunting areas to see where the big bucks are. I won't shoot anything small with my bow.

I would like to say that my main enjoyment during Archery season is the fact that I can be extremely quiet, which allows me to sneak up on animals that you normally wouldn't see close up. If it is big game and they are too far to shoot, I take out the trusty 35mm. So I still get my shot! That is the enjoyment during archery.

If I can go out - eat & sleep good, see game (I got within 18 ft of a buck antelope this year) then by bowhunting was a success. If I ever get an ELK or Antelope then, it was a bigger success.

Archery hunting is a means of learning to still hunt for big game and by the need to be quiet and get close you learn the habits of all the game and other wildlife from mice to moose.

I am an avid elk hunter. I may be after a large trophy bull but most important is to be Elk hunting. I enjoyed the Archery season due to the nice weather, bugling bulls and the solitude. I also enjoy the rifle season but it is tougher to locate the small herds in such huge amounts of timber.

Perhaps I am not seeing the whole picture but I certainly don't see the need for shorter seasons or greatly increased fees (\$20 archery stamp). Due to my job as an engineer for MRL I have been limited to archery only this year and yet I was within 50 yds of a herd of elk including a 5 point bull. I never took a shot because a couple of mistakes on my part alerted them but it was the closest I've ever been to wild elk and will always be a treasured memory. Some of the modifications listed inside could prevent the repetition of this hunt for me. If any limitations should be initiated it should be by individual area.

I was quite satisfied with the elk numbers in area 631 & 630 last fall - Even tho I never killed anything or didn't get a shot won't dampen my interest - it's a great outing & a real challenge to try and stock game. I feel drawings should be held earlier in the fall so we have more time to plan our hunting trip.

I would like to get elk with a bow every year so I would not ever need to rifle hunt. Bow hunting is prime if done right.

I don't think of the 20,000 bowhunters kill all that much game. Of the 20000 probably only 2000 are real serious and the rest just spend money and get nothing but the joy of getting out. Like my 60 year old father I don't think he has ever shot his bow at anything but likes getting out. He can pull a rifle trigger and gets his animals all of them every year. Lots of people (rifle hunters) think we have it too easy. They don't stop to try-find out how hard it is. 20 yards from any species is not

easy. But what a challenge! and then just to have the wrong one or a small one. I'm at there for the thrill of it.

This was my first bow season and I must say I am hooked. Though I didn't kill a bull, I passed up four shots at four defiant bulls because I didn't feel they would be clean kills but there's always next year!

I've with a gun most of my life until 2 yrs. ago. In the last 3 yrs gun hunting to me is not sporting anymore. I've shot deer, elk, bear, antelope with a gun and hardly missed a animal. The bow is more challenging and fulfilling way to hunt. I really enjoy it. I feel bow hunter get a lot of flack on injured animals. I've seen gun hunters injure animals also. And you don't hear much on their injuries to game.

Archery is probably the best, most exhilarating sport that I have ever had the good fortune to participate. To match the cool nerves, the cunning skill and ingenuity of the hunter, against nature's own creations, cannot be paralleled with that of any other sport or recreation.

I have only bowhunted for this year but I enjoyed it thoroughly. Even though it is more challenging, I appreciate the extra difficulty and quality of the hunt. Even though I had several opportunities to shoot at deer and elk, I did not because I did not feel comfortable with my ability and accuracy. I feel that hasty and unskilled shooting with the possible senseless wounding of game in both rifle and archery hunting is a major problem in hunting.

I enjoy archery season because quite a bit of the time I have only bow sitting next to me while I fish.

I just started bow hunting last year and never really hunted hard. I plan to increase my bowhunting in the coming season and am very excited about getting out this fall.

While I feel that 1)many branch antlered bulls are taken and 2)too many elk are wounded by arrows, it is still an honorable and challenging style of hunting.

Being retired disabled, bow hunting has given me something to get out in the forest to do, whether I get my game or not. It makes my retirement much more pleasant, and I can control exertions by also fishing and camping in nice weather.

Montana archery hunting is of high quality and I get great personal satisfaction out of hunting bull elk with a bow. Archery season falls in a beautiful time of the year. Hunters are sparse and that's the best reason to hunt during this time of the year.

Archery season allows you to put your skill against animals at close range as opposed to shots at 2 or 300 yards.

It seems to me, my first year that wildlife has a good chance of living during archery season. Every thing has to be just right, especillay elk hunting, it takes many hours of hiking and scouting I've learned a lot in one year, its certunally different than rifle hunting and more challanging!

Enjoyable Sport

As I indicated in question#2 part III, this is my first year as a archery hutner- But have rode along and walked with my boyfriend and his son for the last 3 years while they bow hunted. This is want got me intereseted in bow hunting and I love the excitement and challange.

Generally satisfied with the archery season. Its the hunt the chase and the challenge not the kill. Would hate to see the archery season change in any way lessen those oppertunity's.

Archery is a great sport. It has taught me patience very well. I have passed many shots because I didn't have the best shot. It is also exciting when you have a 800 lb. bull elk grunting at you aoubt 20 yds away, but are too scared or too exicited to shoot.

I feel that bowhunting is a very challenging and rewarding sport. It offers opportunities to the hunter that he might never get during rifle season. The type of hunting practiced using a bow is more of a true hunting experience to me than that of rifle hunting. Camoflage definetely helps and adds to the experience. The "rut" is an exiciting time to hunt also!

Overall, this was a very good season; I was within 30-35 yds of two 5-point bulls although only one presented a shot (Hit a rib-arrow did not penetrate).

Although nnot as good as 4 years ago, I did get into bugling bulls more often than the last two years. I have not seen a really big bull for four years.

Archery hunting in Montana is a very fun experience, with bugling being the best part.

I plan to pahse out rifle hunting as I become more proficient with a bow and learn more and better areas, especially for elk. I love walking and bugling elk, also whitetail hunting. I would vote for legalizing poison on arrows. I try to just take sure shots, but lost a deer this year when I just nicked a lung.

The most important reason why I started hunting with a bow is

because I like being out in the mountains at this time of year. You see a lot of game and you don't have need the people running around as you do int he rifle season. I strongly support increasing branch antlered bull elk even if it meant bulls only during the archery season and major rifle season.

I was within 20-40 yards of 4 branch antlered bulls. I had no clean shots so took none. I enjoy the hunting but won't take poor shots- I also enjoy greatly the area 260 hunting. I harvested a total of 4 deer, all does.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to live in and hunt this great state of Montana.

Primarily my bow is used ot help me relax and walk in the woods. it's a major trick to go go a walk, to dream and relax-get away fromt he pressures of life and hard work.- I would hate to see large prices \$ put on my excuse to go for a walk-to relax I already pay that price by living in a beautiful kept economical depress area. Put the price on those who come from out of state just to hunt.

Archery elk hunting during bugle season is a fine thrilling sport. The killing of an animal is ocmpletely seocndary to the solitude, beauty and knowledge of wildlife behavior gained.

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks;

I'm writing this short letter to fill you in and what I feel about Montana's archery season mean to me. And also what I feel about the effects archery has on game, such as deer, elk, bear.

Archery season, to me , is a chance for me to once again hit the field. Each year opens new experiences. Each and every one is full fulling and rewarding.

I have been hunting since 1970 with a bow and arrow. And to use a saying I found out real quick, just why the indians were skinny until the got a hold of there guns.

It took me five years before I shot my first deer. And eleven years for my first elk, and 2 more successful years after that. But in 17 years I nwo feel that only a person who loves the outdoors, the hardships, etc. will remain a hunters, both archery and rifle.

Out of 20,000 archer's, you will get 150 guys that will remain bow hunters. The rest will go back to guns.

But I have found out by experience that I have become a better gun hunter, from what I've learned from bow hunting.

What I think is very sad is how the people in Fish and Game, are doing their very best to make every dollar possible from out sports. I wouldn't bet at all the money collected would be spent for just what it was meant for.

Like \$2.00 for special permits went for feeding wildlife.

Well they quit fading but the money I still being spent for God knows what.

Now they want to split up everything for the good old dollar. And who pays for this. The outdoorsman.

Just leave things alone for a little while.

I covered more ground last year with my bow then I have in the last 5 years of hunting-Hiked in on trails all over North western Montana I love the outdoors and getting in shape and fresh air away from the crowd.

Bow hunting for elk is not only for the meat (or kill) but to get out and be by yourself and really see the area that you hunt. The kill is not as important as it was 10 yrs ago but to see and experience the woods and animals.

I have hunted with a bow in Montana since 1964. Mostly for deer. I hunt for the pure pleasure of being out in the field. The killing of game is secondary. I have, however, taken several deer over the years, all branch antlered bucks.

I hunt for elk with rifle and bow more for just the pleasure of hunting and being in the mountains than the actual killing of the game. I do use the wild game I kill to full-fill most of my meat consumption thou. We have a unique area here and we should appreciate it and protect it. We should limit the use of motorized traffic in most of the areas.

Hunting with blunts should be promoted like fishing with a barbless hook.

I enjoy archery hunting for elk, the sound of their bugle and the weather so much-I am considering hunting with blunts. I can say steak in a store, but not the sight, sound and smell of a rutting bull 30 ft. away.

The things I like most of bow hunting for elk, is being able to relax, away from all the noise of daily life, pressures and etc. with the only noise you hear at night are the elk and coyotes, and with any luck you might end up with your winters supply of meat. P.S. as of now (no such luck)

Archery season is a very special time for the year for myself. It

all depends on the weather. Last year was so hot and dry but usually its good.

I just go to see the animals.

It is a privilege to hunt elk in Montana. I wish that more people realized what we have.

I believe a lot of people are unaware of the experience of hunting during bow season-If you have never been around elk during the rut, you have missed something. To take an elk is just a bonus.

I enjoy archery hunting just for the enjoyment and quietness of bow hunting and I do not believe that bowhunting is cruel and inhumane way to hunt. I may not have gotten an elk yet but I have had my chances and hope that bow hunting in Mt. will continue.

I did not get much archery in this year as compared to others, but, I still enjoyed getting out there an not worry about be shot.

I am disabled and probably shuld not anser some of these questions do to my mobility. However, I do enjoy to be in the woods and would like to continue to be able to afford the luxury of being able to bow hunt in Montana.

Archery hunting is a good reason to be outdoors at a nice time of year-to me getting some thing is not important but the getting out is.

The time of year is probably the most pleasant time of year to be outdoors enjoying.

In most seasons I generally see at least three elk, and I do not shoot over 40 yards with a bow.

The enjoyment of hunting for the last 33 years of hunting has been phenominal.

To me archery hunting isn't so much getting meat. It's more of a learning experience. It's great getting out, seeing game and trying to stalk or bugle within distance to take with primitive weapons. Todays bows are high teck enough to increase a persons chances.

I enjoy bow hunting even when I don't get a shot. My time I can hunt is limited but I liked the time I can spend on it.

I enjoy bow hunting, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to hunt. Wish I had more time. Looking forward to this coming

fall.

I personally bow hunt because it allows me more time to be spent out enjoying nature and her creatures to me there is no sound in all nature like the bugle of a bull elk and the chance to get close enough to take a good look at one I don't really care if I get one or even a shot just to be able to hear and see these great animals is a successful hunt to me!

while Bow hunting I use the opportunity of Bugling to take pictures and if I can get someone else to Bugle I slip around and see how many elk-cows calves and all are in the area-so I get very few shots but lots of fun.

Early Fall is a great time of year to be out exploring the woods. The leaves are starting to drop & lots of animal activity. Tourist traffic has slowed significantly. I took up bow hunting to enjoy this quiet time of year to the fullest. Just observing Elk close up during rut is a thrill indeed!!

I ENJOY BOWHUNTING, I'M NOT TOO CONCERNED ABOUT BAGGING GAME. I LIKE BEING OUTDOORS IN THE EARLY FALL AND SEEING UNDISTURBED GAME. THE QUALITY OF THE HUNT IS VERY IMPORTANT, FEW HUNTERS, UNDISTURBED ANIMALS.

Archery hunting does not disturb game animals- I would favor a longer season w/out having to worry about being scoped by rifle hunters. Archery hunting allows me the freedom & safety to develop tracking skills & just observing game in its natural state w/out their being spooked. I passed up two deer this season just for the joy of observing them up close- you don't get this chance during rifle season-

I really enjoy the archery season in early fall before the general season. It allows me to find the game in a more natural state of existence. Not spooked or moved out of an area like the general season will do to them. Its a much safer hunt than rifle. Its challenging & rewarding the weather is mild in sept. & Oct.

Archery-unlike rifle hunting, is a deliberate act. There is more work and skill than luck with archery. I have no pressure or worry when carrying a bow- A rifle is a killing weapon that a 5 year old can succeed with-Archery is a deeper understanding of both the wild life and ones self

I think bow hunting for big game animals is a fun experience for beginners like myself. I had fun bow hunting and I know I'm gonna want to go bow hunting next year.

I hunted deer for the 1st time this year with my husband. We are lucky to be able to hunt right here at home. Even though I didn't take a shot I enjoyed the few nights out more than I

thought possible. We shoot in an archery league to stay practiced all year. I am looking forward to next season.

It was only my first year, but I really enjoy the sport. It is challenging and also there isn't crowds in your favorite spot. I also got a thrill out of listening to the bulls bugle.

I am opposed to a decrease in the length of our hunting seasons. Not having taken a trophy this past season did not significantly affect my enjoyment of hunting. The thrill of getting close to bugling bulls and seeing game in the natural setting is success enough for me.

I really like the bow season in Mont. I think it the way to hunt although I haven't been very successful myself. but that is not that important to me. I just like the challenge.

ARCHERY HUNTING HAS BEEN A GOOD GAME MANAGEMENT IN GERENT SPECIAL AREA'S IT HAS TAUGHT MANY YOUNG HUNTER'S BETTER SPORTSMANSHIP & HUNTING SKILL'S MOST ARCHERS ARE GOOD SPORTSMAN AND HUNTERS

1987 was my first year experience with archery hunting. I have been educated by the frustrations and by the smartness of the game. I am thoroughly hooked and intend to use the hard learned lessons to try extra hard to harvest game the following season.

I really enjoy bow hunting, it is a real thrill to get close to big game animals and feel your heart increase to a roar, even the trembling afterwards is great. A natural high. its worth the time and effort of the stalk. but, the river bottom is getting so bad with orange signs and posts that it stops the fun for the serious stalker. the riverbottom land owners should be (one mans opinion) more open to bow hunters.

I know its hard to come up with a season that will please everybody. I feel you must hunt with a bow to appreciate the challenge it presents - not to disturb the game and be able to work yourself into a position of a close range shot (under 35 yds) I believe most archers know more about the game they hunt than other hunter

I like to Archery hunt - It is more of a challenge. With a gun you just go get your meat. with a bow you may get as close as 10 feet. but not get the shot you want. That is what make me coming back to bow hunting the challenge.

Part II - YES RESPONSES

ARE YOU GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH ARCHERY HUNTING IN MONTANA AS IT NOW STANDS? WHY?

Seasons are long enough.

But you let too many deer be taken by one person.

Can hunt antelope in 800 districts. Was disappointed with low whitetail population.

The season covers the rut of elk and is extensive enough to plan and execute.

I think archery is a great sport but there are too many people out there who wound animals because they can't shoot well enough.

Fair season length, abundant areas to hunt.

Because the regulations are fine.

I feel it is a good time of year and easier to get out to hunt.

I said yes because I love to hunt no matter if I get anything or not.

It's during the rut of elk and most of the smaller backcountry roads are open.

Uncrowded in woods and pleasant weather; on occasion I hear elk bugle.

Everything works out fine, very little change is needed.

The access is still easy enough to get and the animal numbers are good.

Yes generally, but bow hunting pressure is growing every year (elk).

Generally not a lot of pressure from other hunters.
Length of season and time of year, and bag limits.

Always hunt during elk rut; too bad not in snow season for tracking.

Archers get a head start on the hunting season.

Makes a long hunting season for me.

Time of year - not as many hunters afield - quality of hunt - more animal sightings.

I find that I have plenty of time to hunt as much as I wish.

Nice long season.

The season is enough.

Good number of days and species to hunt.

Long season - abundant wildlife.

First year.

Mainly because it's before rifle season.

Provides quality opportunity, and the season runs during the nicest time of the year.

Not many other hunter out.

Archery hunting needs and has its own seasons.

Because it occurs during the rut.

Because there is less hunters and it's very challenging.

Because it is during the elk rut, plus the season length. There are a lot of places to hunt.

An archer is still able to hunt with both gun and bow in the proper season.

However, more archery only area for the full hunting season would be nice.

Good access - game populations added opportunity to trophy hunt.

A chance to bugle elk and deer before they change patterns; long seasons.

You can go out and see a lot of wildlife close up.

I like to bugle elk and the animals aren't spooked by heavy pressure.

Because it's nice and it's such a good sport.

Because there is plenty of animals and it is fun.

Extensive length of seasons - includes opportunity to bowhunt during gun seasons in gun areas.

It allows me to hunt before fall seeding.

Because there is lots of country and lots of big game.

The country is there and the animal population is there.

It gives me the chance to hunt with bow and rifle.

I feel the present seasons offer an excellent hunting opportunity.

Plenty of game and not much hunting pressure.

It's during bugling.
It's an excellent season.

Time of year - fewer hunters - quieter with no rifle shots.

The early season.

I think it is a great sport. I haven't shot at anything yet and I didn't hunt at all this year but bought license and intended to.

Seems to be enough game around if one is patient.

It's a good program.

Because it extends your time in the field to study the game and their habits and if not successful you still have the rifle season.

It is a good time fo year for me.

Autumn is my favorite time of year.

It's a fairly new experience.

Hunter numbers are acceptable and kill ratio is consistent.

I like to get out that time of year.

It meets my needs with being outdoors at this excellent time of year.

It gives the archer the opportunity for a successful season by letting them kill either sex.

I see and hear deer and elk foot prints gun season only.

Hunt before rifle season.

It give archers time to hunt and not all at once.
I feel we have a generous season and more opportunities for big game.

There are plenty of animals and you never see other hunters.

Before gun season and warmer weather.

Good populations - too high even for habitat in 260, could use more access.

I enjoy hunting in the wide open spaces.

Because Montana has a long season at a nice time of year!

I see no problems with districts or laws.

It's the right time of the year.

It gives me more opportunity to get an elk or deer. It's a nice time of year but was too warm to hunt far in places in 1987.

First year bowhunting.

It does not conflict with the general season and gives me a lot of latitude.

It's OK although it would be nice to also have a late season (after rifle) hunt for two weeks.

Because hunting season is longer and the challenge is greater.

Season length is good; time of season is good.

Seasons and regulations provide a pleasant hunting experience.

It is a good time of year, and there is a lot of good hunting.

Because all hunters have the right to hunt with gun and bow.
It offers everything I want in an early hunting season.

Scenery, exercise and the possibility for success; a six point bull or buck.

Because I can hunt either sex whitetail.

There are several branch antlered deer and some elk in this area.

Big game is plentiful and the archery season is liberal.

Long season.

Long enough and early enough.

Good hunting seasons, not too many hunters, a lot of game.

There is a lot of game seen and not really too much pressure.

Yes, because there are fewer hunters which makes it better.

It seems to be adequate.

I enjoy the sport.

We usually see quite a few animals.

Fair for everyone.

Because I enjoy the outdoors and wide spaces.

I just can't get that good shot.

I see game when I go out.

The season is just right, weather wise and you don't have to worry about dodging bullets when under cover.

Long seasons; I enjoy getting out in the fall.

Because it's during elk rutting season.

There are long seasons, few people, and the late elk archery season.

Season is fairly long and access on private land is much easier than with rifle.

I find the season to be relaxing and exciting.

My area (Lincoln) is not too congested during week.

Little pressure on either the animals or the hunter.

I don't know of anyway to improve it.

Because there is a lot of game out during bow season.

Fewer people out hunting, elk not spooked, see a lot of elk.

Because there is not that many hunters.

Happy with the position of the hunting in respects to gun hunting.

I haven't found any problems with it.

Except bird season going on at the same time in the mountains.

It provides a challenging way to hunt.

Because of real good reason for less numbers of bowhunters than many rifle hunters.

Because I like the fact that you don't need a special permit to hunt elk.

There is a wide variety of game to hunt.

The regulations seem fair as they currently stand, based on the hunter/game ratio out there.

Because it does not subtract from rifle season.

We have great game populations that are well managed.

I just started this year.

Seeing lots of the bigger bulls and bucks, but very concerned about the loss of wounded game.

But I would like to see a buck "B" tag for area 260.

Long seasons - good land owner cooperation - nice time of year!

There are a lot of places to hunt.

Time seasons start, variety of game and district.

Regulations seem fair.

Good populations of deer.

It's basically a fair system except for the archers who do it because it's "fashionable".

See plenty of game, few hunters length of season.

Either sex hunting is a bonus for hunting with a bow.

Season opens early enough before rutting gets into full swing and runs usually until it is done.

Good season length and extended season; could use more special

seasons (damage hunts etc.).

There is a great abundance of wildlife out there. I wouldn't miss it for the world.

It is the right length of time and is fair as to what can be taken.

I like guaranteed draw system. It seems to reduce the nonserious bowhunters.

Time of hunt, low number of hunters, plenty of game.

Because we have the early seasons we need to hunt.

It's warm plus a month ahead of rifle season.

It gives people without a lot of experience in bow hunting as good of a chance as the experienced.

Large area.

Early hunt - - before any black powder or rifle hunts.

It gives me more time to hunt around my job.

Because it's a nice time of the year to hunt, also if you fail to get your animal you have rifle season.

Knowing areas.

I am happy with everything - season length, license fees, districts open etc. Don't change a bunch of things.

It's a good season. During the rut the trees are changing colors and the season is changing.

I enjoy getting out. I really don't care if I get anything.

But feel there are a lot of people out shooting at animals without having the skills to do more than wound them.

If it ain't broke don't fix it.

Few hunters.

Hunting pressure was not too hard.

I really never got to hunt yet so don't know any better.

It provides a host of opportunities with good variation in quality of experience.

The archery hunting is OK but not as good as it can be.

Because I've killed many big game animals and now only trophy hunt. Four point whitetail last year.

I am very satisfied with bow hunting as it now stands and I feel it should stay that way.

Very little hunting pressure, game herds satisfactory.

I like the long season.

Have no problems with it just as it is.

Yes, except for limited areas of good habitat available to public.

50 - 50 chance.

Long seasons, liberal bag limits, opportunity to hunt many species.

I have never run into any complications.

Like the different species to hunt and the time of year for hunting.

Many different species to hunt, beautiful country to hunt in; a quality experience.
Quality experience - low hunting pressure.

The season gives plenty of time for the working man to fit hunting in around his working schedule.

The length of the season is sufficient to the rut of the elk. If you don't have a chance during bow season you may have one during rifle season.

It allows a chance to get game before they become too spirited when encountered by humans.

Because I think it's fun.

It seems fine to me because I do as much of it as I want.

In general it has more game than most states I've hunted.

Flexible - lots of opportunities.

As often as I go, the places to go are accessible and rules reasonable.

Timing and season length are good.

Don't have to choose between rifle and bow; can do both.

It is a challenging and relaxing way to hunt.

It's not over regulated.

Allows either sex and you can hunt in districts that are permit only for rifle season.

Gives you a long season and good weather to enjoy the hunt.

Provides plenty of opportunity for hunting.

It's fun.

It's not too cold yet and there is still green left for concealment.

It's working.

I enjoy getting out hunting. Archery hunting is a good sport and I would hate to see it changed.

Long season - liberal regulations - fair fees.

It allows an adequate amount of time for the hunting season and allows hunting statewide.

Because the season includes most of those precious few weeks during which elk bugle.

It appears that there is abundant game with little or no pressure.

I think the archery season in Montana is excellent - long season and quality hunting.

The areas I primarily hunt are private so hunter competition and game population are satisfactory.

Not as crowded in the woods.

Because it's the bugle season.

Allows freedom to extent, quality time hunting.

No crossbows or muzzleloaders during this time frame.

The length of season is very adequate, and the fish and game has been very fair. Also there is no competition with any firearms which I feel is a good safety factor.

Plenty of elk and places to hunt. However there are also too many nonserious hunters.

Currently a very satisfying experience.
Good game population, good season.

It's a great time to be outdoors and to enjoy one of Montana's best resources.

Good populations of deer in many areas. season is open during elk rut and is of sufficient length.

No crowds, good in length, coincides with bugling season.

Because not alot of out of state hunters.

The dates are just fine the way they stand. There could be more late season bow hunts and special districts to hunt.

I remember the stamp was put on in the beginning to make archery laws and it has been increased and now you're talking twenty dollars. You're crazy, but you keep asking stupid questions. Let's show you who likes a twenty dollar license.

1987 season was my first year and I really enjoyed it.

Long season that provides many beautiful fulfilling outdoor experiences.

I do not like the present permit basis on the north side of the Missouri River Breaks. This is the only aspect I am dissatisfied with.

Good time, weather, and access.

It seems to be adequate.

A beautiful early season experience regardless of "kill", the "hunt" is always successful.

You have close places for simple whitetail and coyote hunting and I love the terrain.

Good time of year - Game visability high.

It is a fun, challenging, nice time of year hunting activity, that I can enjoy without fear of being shot by another hunter.

Length of season allows for additional recreation opportunities during the year.

Not competing with rifle hunters, two season hunting (rifle and bow), safer wearing camouflage, good weather and nice time of year to be out, challenging way to hunt and view nature, quiet woods.

Excellent (best) time of the year to hunt - during bugling season.

Open areas (gates) that are closed during rifle season; offer greater opportunity.

Can hunt a few days with the bow and still rifle hunt.

Montana offers a variety of terrain and cover along with different animals. You never know what you're going to run into.

Because archery runs during the rut for bulls which makes a chance for a bull real possible.

Good variety and quality on a national basis.

No spikes gun or bow.

The season is long enough to really do the hunting you need with a bow.

Because I see more deer, elk, etc.

Lots of opportunity to hunt.

Good hunting opportunities and not too much pressure.

Because the deer and elk populations are on an upswing.

Plenty of animals where I hunt.
It should stay the way it is now.

Long hunts during the elk ruts.

Season dates and rules agree with me.

Season has good length plus with bowhunters access problems are minimal.

It enables a man to hunt with bow then later on with a gun, if need be.

Why change a good thing?

Because you don't need to go to orange signs which are ruining Montana hunting.

Season is long enough, good animal population, little pressure.

Game is not as leary of people.

Adequate time range, good landowner attitude.

Season length is ample, enough area with statewide hunting, leave it the way it is.

There is a wide variety of animals, good hunting dates.

Because it doesn't take much to hunt in Montana.

It gives archers a good chance to get game with their bows.

It is a fun, challenging way to hunt.

I usually go for elk to bugle them.

The season is long enough to get in ample weekend experiences without missing work.

I think it is challenging as it is.

Time of year is good, length of season is good.

I would like to see less out-of-state hunters.

For all the reasons you list in number two of this page.

Plenty of animals and not much competition.

Weather is beautiful and game is plentiful.

It is good almost everywhere and I like the challenge.

Freedom to hunt without undo laws that confuse.

Elk rut is on, nice weather conditions, deer are not spooked by too many hunters. I hunt mostly for deer.

Decent time of year and reasonably close access to areas I hunt.

Plentiful deer and are not spooked.

It gives a decent length for season and fits in well with shotgun and rifle seasons.

Not very expensive, good seasons and not too many hunters.

Because we don't need to send in for tags like other states.

Seasons are of the proper length, but I would like to see archery

used as late (winter) harvest hunts also - instead of always rifle.

Long season.

Because there is enough time to take an animal even if you should have to work for a few weekends of the season.

Hunting seasons are fairer than in the past ie. late hunts, archery only antelope, depredation hunts.

It's challenging.

I think it is the right length.

It gives everyone an opportunity to and not just the trophy hunter.

Because there are fewer people and the game isn't too spooky.

Generally I'm satisfied, however I feel strongly about - let's stop the shooting of calves (elk) and fawns (deer).

All is good except mandatory special elk drawing for CMR area.

Because it allows you enough time to get an animal.

Because we usually see a lot of animals.

I think the season is long enough and fairly well placed in the year.

In the area where I hunt there isn't any pressure from other hunters so there isn't any hassles.

Gives opportunity to hunt elk during rutting season before rifle season. There's also less competition from rifle season.

There is plenty of everything around.

Almost always see and can stalk game.

Elk population in Little Delts is currently doing well.

Freedom to hunt nearly anywhere in the state.

It's cool.

Because there are few regulations, ie. drawing for tags. Hunting is good.

I do believe deer hunting could begin two weeks before elk season.

Like to be able to hunt with bows and rifle - more recreation time.

Provides a hunting of archery without rifles included.

Because it gets you out there hunting when the elk are bugling.

I like the early season.

The only thing I would like to see is one week deleted, and open one week in the winter after general season.

Because we have a long season yet I'm still allowed to rifle hunt.

I do most of my hunting in the river bottom and there's lots of deer.

I like the length of season before and after rifle season - very happy and satisfied.

So I can hunt before rifle hunting opens.

The season is of reasonable length.

Because of length of season and time of year.

Challenging way to hunt big game.

Good conditions (both fall and winter) during elk rut.

Increased opportunity, less hunting pressure.

Good game numbers, good land access in my area, long seasons.

Fun, no one else out.

Just like to get out.

There isn't much hunter congestion in the areas I hunt, resulting in less pressure on the elk.

We can hunt either sex elk in many areas not allowed during general season.

Long season, few restrictions, not crowded.

Because there are lots of deer and not as many hunters.

Long season and several species.

You can hunt all sexes, no drawings, any area.

Good length to it and time.

I usually hunt private land.

Because it seems just right in all ways.

I like the long season, timed season, liberal hunting restrictions.

Low pressure.

Season length.

It is good hunting.

It is good to hunt before rifle, about right length of time.

The hunting gives me plenty of hunting.
Because the Montana Fish and Wildlife has provided a good herd of deer and elk.

Season length of time.

Season length, dates and bag limits seem appropriate.

I like the game I see and there is lots of it.

Season length, availability of permits.

I think they're fair and I have no complaints.

I can hunt very selectively with the bow and still rifle hunt with my family.

The past season was a good length (Labor Day opening), with good animal numbers.

The length is about right, the time of year is right for elk.

Current opportunities permit possibility of success.

Long season, plentiful game, few hunters.

Solitude. However, I wish more landowners would allow archery hunting.

Seasons are acceptable, relatively good hunter - game ratio, better landowner relations.

It's a sporting way to hunt and a greater challenge.

Because Montana is so liberal with its seasons, species to hunt, length of hunting season.

Could be longer.

It's basically well thought out.

Qualification - only frustration is access to public land - more difficult each year.

This was my first year hunting with a bow. I love to get outdoors (country). This is my reason.

I rarely see other hunters and game seems quite plentiful.

I find it satisfying.

Long season, plenty of opportunity to hunt.

There are less people during bow season as compared to rifle season.

Easier to hunt on accessible land that is not accessible in normal rifle season.

There is a lot of elk and deer and it is a challenge to get them with a bow.

It's the right time of the year for archery season.

It is less crowded than during rifle season.

Because there are a lot of friendly people in our area that let me hunt on their land and there's plenty of game around.

Because it is at the right time of the year, there are not many hunters, and it needs no change.

Allows me to hunt when the elk are bugling.

I like the long season.

Allows sufficient days afield.

Because of the early season and either sex hunts.

I like to get out in the woods. You can see what they do.

Gives one adequate time for a hunt and is not overcrowded.

The opportunities are there if you're willing to work for them.

Because of the variety, openness, and terrain during the season.

Bow hunting provides plenty of very fine hunting and doesn't do much damage to the game.

I feel the state has done an excellent job with it.

Because I see a lot of elk.

A lot of opportunities to take an animal before rifle season.

There is not a lot of other archery competition where I hunt.

While wildlife is still available for hunting this doesn't mean that based on existing habitat the situation can't be improved.

Because I like it the way it is.

It gives one an opportunity to work at it as needed, as much more time is needed for archery.

I still have quality hunting and reasonable access to huntable land. Trophy animals exist.

Special early season with no black powder!

Mostly because of the longer season.

Because I can't think of any changes I would like to see made.

I feel that the hunting is regulated well. There could possibly be a few refinements.

It extends my hunting and scouting.

Length of season, variety of species to hunt.

Not near as many people hunting during archery as during rifle season.

Because it is a very well-organized system.

The Fish and Game is doing a good job and I like the opportunity to hunt with bow plus rifle.

Love special regulations in 260 for whitetails.

There isn't a lot of pressure.

Early season hunting.

It's a safe and excellent sport, less confusion.

I believe it gives a great recreational opportunity with a small impact on the game population.

Weather, less hunters.

I feel like there is more game here.

I enjoy archery hunting more than rifle hunting. It gives the serious hunter ample time to make a clean kill.

It is in bugle season.

I feel hunting archery is more challenging than rifle.

Because you have a chance at getting something.

Decent amount of game (elk) and season fairly long.

Enjoy it the way it is.

The deer population is great, the elk population could be better. It's a great way to hunt.

My area has plenty of opportunity to kill elk as well as deer and bear.

Plenty of opportunity to hunt where I will with expectation of scoring.

I wish private landowners would let archers in on a permit basis.

The weather is good and the season is plenty long.

Time of year, length of season.

A long season.

Abundance of animals - in most areas no drawing for permits is required.

Ample opportunities exist for serious archers - if we can eliminate paid fee type hunting!

We get some time before deer hunting season with guns.

It is early in the year when the weather is nice.

The season length is just right, and there aren't as many hunters in bow season.

I've always seen an animal which I would have loved to take. I

don't think that happens in many states.

Coming from Washington state, Montana has good laws.

However, should limit the number of out-of state hunters and have preference for native Montanans.

Because there's just enough restrictions.

There is good hunting all over the state (compared to others).

Except for limited permit access in districts 621 and 623.

Length of season.

Season is reasonable in length.

Good long season, lots of opportunity.

Lots of opportunity.

Lots of game, lots of area.

Long season, generally uncrowded conditions, and wide areas to choose from.

Amount of archers are not too much to get crowded.

Less hunting pressure.

I would like to see a later general season. It is too warm for those of us that are concerned about meat.

Provides a satisfying hunting opportunity. I see archery hunting being much more regulated in the future.

Archery hunters should be required to take safety course and qualify on accuracy.

Yes, except access is becoming difficult on private land. (Getting to be far too many hunters.)

We are blessed with a lot of game.

Yes, I enjoy the length of season now.

It is a nice long season, including deer and elk together along with bear.

I like to hunt with a bow and I feel it is perfect.

I think, that for the most part, the way archery hunting is set

up in Montana is very good.

Season length is adequate.

Yes, except with all the different "calls" elk are apt to change their habits during the rut.

It expands the time I have to hunt.

I just started so I'm not too experienced with archery hunting.

I have encountered no pressure from other bow hunters while hunting.

Montanan's can at least hunt of BLM and Forest Service lands.

Generally yes, the seasons are long enough and provide enough opportunity if no improvements are made.

As of now the number of hunters is not bad. I do not want to see increased numbers of hunters but I am not willing to accept a shorter season or permit only bow hunting. It's a catch 22 at best.

Early season weather and easier access.

We have good season length. We have good herds of species. We are starting to get treated like sportsmen.

I enjoy bow hunting a great deal but would like to see more "special" hunts such as the antelope is now, ie. Big Horn, Moose, and late hunts.

Generous seasons and plenty of opportunities to harvest big game (deer and elk).

Because you see lots of wildlife.

I just started.

The last season opened early enough to hunt a week before seeding.

Plenty of good areas to hunt with a minimum of other hunters.

I like it the way it is because of no black powder or other firearms being allowed.

Because I've enjoyed it.

Ample opportunity throughout the state with few restrictions.

No complaints.

Yes, except for the access of public lands.

It gives a fair chance to hunt all the big game.

Time of year.

Season is long and separate from rifle. Areas open to archery are sufficient.

There are a lot less bow hunters than rifle hunters in my area.

Season framework provides good recreation opportunities.

The long period of time is excellent.

In the immediate area I hunt (632), permits - not to be any less.

It runs long enough where if you are going to get your game you will get it in the provided time.

It seems to me that Fish and Game has the quotas figured pretty close on permits in the area I hunt.

Because it's near my home - within fifty miles.

Because I got plenty of shots, I just couldn't hit anything.

Probably because I go mainly to see things and enjoy the outdoors, and so far I have been able to get away from other people bow hunting so that I can enjoy myself.

A lot of game.

Challenging.

Because of length of season - either sex elk.

No reason.

Long season.

Allows more days in field and few people hunt compared to rifle season.

It seems to provide ample opportunity to get an elk.

Gives me time to do all the hunting I want to do.

I have seen lots of game and had some shots.

So far the regions I hunt are not overrun with hunters.

Being my first year, I saw a large sum of deer and elk that were larger than I generally do during regular season hunts.

It is not a complicated system; easy to understand, easy to do.

It covers the elk rut and is long enough to locate and kill game.

Yes, except the difficulty of obtaining landowner permission is discouraging, and access blockage.

Long season, many areas to hunt in, good time of year.

Yes, at present there seems to be plenty of country to relationship of hunters in most parts (breaks area is exception).

Less competition than gun season. Weather is usually good.

Because it starts in September which is later than other states.

Because in the areas I hunt you don't need special permits.

Adequate game, however, hunter pressure has been increasing.

Yes, except there should be some kind of testing for new hunters; a reasonable ability to hit a target.

It would be better if access was better in area 700.

There are plenty of game animals and hunting conditions are excellent.

Allows quality time in the field.

Because for elk and deer it is either sex which makes it easier for meat.

It's before gun season, and a cooler climate.

Good overall system.

Because of the earlier season, but a stamp is expensive!

Yes, except I would like to see a post bow season after general season.

Length of season - not many hunters.

There are no areas needing improvement. Fish and Game is doing a good management job.

Lots of deer.

Because there are more deer and elk every year. The population of big game seems to be growing.

Abundance of animals and good, natural habitat.

Long liberal season.

Plenty of deer.

There is plenty of opportunity to stalk and take game.

Good variety of deer and elk, no hassles with landowners in 410.

I can hunt in areas and be alone.

It is a good place to have the season scheduled.

We have a fairly long season. I would like to see more later post seasons.

The regulations are great and it is a great time.

It offers an extra season for the hunter to choose and more time to enjoy our state.

Good season length - general access to a variety of hunting areas and species.

I saw plenty of game but just couldn't get close.

I like not having the congestion of hunters during bow season.

Hunting freedom or open hunting in most districts - don't change it.

Because it is a fairly long season.

Range of hunting area with few people about.

Good season, lots of game.

Because there are many animals this year because of the light winter before.

The seasons are long enough and the sex is OK (either sex elk).

The early season gives archers a chance at bugling bulls and still lets you hunt during general season.

It's good, don't change season.

Reasonable season length - plenty of game.

There are more places to go hunting than you could get to in one year.

Game is relatively plentiful.

I feel that there is enough deer for the number of archers.

Yes, except for the people who are not serious and are a problem to us who are.

Liberal season.

I have enjoyed it; gives archers first chance.

Yes, except I am totally upset with the new "either-or" thoughts of Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. It stinks!

I like the opening day on the Labor Day weekend.

Because hunting is plentiful and not limited to one species.

The cost is just right that I may still afford to use the opportunity to have a more challenging hunt.

The season is long enough to give you time to hunt during bugle season.

I find the places that I hunt aren't hurt by the general public because they have to walk to get there.

Because the way it stands you do not have to compete with hunting pressure.

You seem to be alone out there. I like the small number of bow hunters.

Because we almost always get deer or shots, and no roads are closed.

I see plenty of game and enjoy the time of the year.

During bow season I see more game and fewer hunters. I don't see as many unsportsmanlike things during bow season.

Because it is not such a rat race then and the game is there when using your skills.

Yes, except why is 324 closed to archery hunting but then opens for rifle season.

Yes, except access to public land is becoming scarce and focusing more pressure on remaining access sites.

I have always liked the pre-rifle hunt. I do wish it was longer.

Fair opportunity for success, not excessive number of hunters.

The time of the year is great to be out, saw no other hunters, saw lots of game.

Gives ample time to get out in the woods.

Because it allows you to choose area of interest and change to another area if you aren't satisfied.

Liberal season dates, advantage for bugling elk.

Season is right length, there isn't excessive pressure.

Enjoy getting out - nice weather.

Very liberal!

I like the season length and time of year.

It's one of the things the state hasn't managed to screw up yet.

Length of season, time of season.

You have the whole woods to yourself.

We have a good game population and an excellent season.

Because it allows a wide variety of hunting for different species.

The season is long and tags aren't too expensive.

It expands my hunting time and opportunity.

Adequate season, diversity of animals, few restrictions.

It's at the right time for elk rut.

The season seems fair enough.

Season is long enough, not too many archers afield after first week.

The areas open are close to home.
Opportunity is abundant for outstanding archery hunting experience at present.

I enjoy hunting elk during the rut and during mild weather and

not competing with rifle hunters.

Am happy with branched antler regulations in some districts.

Ample opportunity, good game numbers, the general environment.

It was a challenge, and we saw plenty of game.

I have had no problems with the way it stands.

Yes, except different regulations on opposite sides of the Missouri River.

Big game populations seem good.

It is nice to be able to hunt either sex because if you couldn't then you would always see the other. And also you can hunt almost any district.

The season seems long enough.

Because when I go out and hunt I have no problem seeing game.

I am lucky enough to be able to hunt where there is little or no competition.

For the amount of time I've been able to get out in the last four years, I've see quite a few animals.

Yes, but I'm a beginner and have only hunted for one year, so I don't know.

Good hunting.

Wide variety and large amounts of big game.

I like to be able to hunt with bow and rifle both, but I feel if the hunter doesn't fill his tag with the bow, he should be able to use his rifle to do so for all big game.

Because I can get out before the rifle hunters.

Because you can almost always get a permit.

Freedom to hunt in a number of areas and to get away from the mass of rifle hunters, 4x4's, ATV's etc.

Some places I hunt now, I also hunted as a boy.

Yes, except season should be started one week later. It's generally not as warm by later in September. I've heard of several lost to spoilage.

I can get closer to the animals I hunt and feel the season should not be changed.

Many opportunities and variety of species are available.

Because It's free of a lot of regulations.

Early enough in the season and just the right length.

Allows for long season of hunting when game is in prime condition.

It offers lots of challenge.

It fits into my personal plans to be hunting and outdoors for a longer period.

Have access to private property which is generally exclusive (no fees).

Yes, except that bird season starts during archery season!

I have heard it's a good time of the year, a bit warm though. It offers adequate time and areas for great hunting.

Provides opportunity to hunt elk bugling season.

Lots of game, long season.

Good hunting but too many hunters.

It's a nice time of the year. It's challenging. Can hunt either sex.

We have good populations and many open areas to hunt.

Ample places to hunt and ample time allowed.

Ample season, low hunter numbers afield, good game opportunity.

There are no problems with people and weather.

I like being able to go hunt when I want to without seeing other hunters.

It provides a lot of recreation without seriously threatening game populations.

There is less hunter pressure and it is more challenging.

I love to elk hunt and by living close to the mountains, there are many days that I get to go one or two times.

Yes, except my only concern is overkill on mature bulls during the rut - needs to be watched closely.

Archery hunting in general is more of a challenge than rifle hunting! I enjoy it more.

I believe that the hunter to animal ratio is satisfactory.

I like the season the way it is.

The season of the year, abundance of game at close range.

It's a beautiful sport. A real hunter will get his elk if he tries hard enough!

It seems to be okay for now as far as my area is concerned.

Because it is a lot of fun and there is a lot of game.

Nice weather.

It gives me a chance to hunt before I go to college.

The season is early and gives you plenty of time to hunt before rifle season.

Bow hunting is recognized as an important aspect of hunting in Montana.

The season is long enough and I'd like it to stay the way it is now.

Because elk and deer are plentiful and well managed.

Availability of well populated big game species.

Season is long enough.

Long season, few people, and plenty of game.

Because it is the right time of the season for the elk to be in the rut and it is challenging.

Yes, except I wish they would stop shortening the season.

Like the separate season.

This was my first year bow hunting. I got into bow hunting so I could do more scouting for the general season.
It suits my needs.

Not many people, relaxes me, people are friendlier.

Because it is just before rifle hunting season, and it is a nice time of the year.

I like to hunt early and like archery only season.

It seems that there are fewer hunters therefore the game is less riled.

Corresponds with rut, generally.

It doubles my hunting time and allows me to be out in nice weather.

Have only hunted a few years during archery season.

I think the season is a good length and good time of year.

It gives me a variety of animals to hunt.

It's a peaceful time of the year without being overrun by other hunters.

All areas are open. Season is long enough, good time of the year, not too many hunters.

Season is about right length, some special areas are left open longer for archery only.

I enjoy the season very much, but have had no success.

You don't have to put up with a lot of hunters.

Because it is generally controlled more than the rifle season.

Because the season is right and it is very enjoyable.
Plenty of game.

The areas I hunt have fair populations of all species and hunting pressure is fair.

Good length of season. Laws discourage "Hi Tec" equipment.
Effort to control number of archers in C.M. Russell areas.

Personally I am satisfied but I am bothered by numerous reports of hit but lost animals by other friends and acquaintances.

I would like to see a late hunt because of tracking snow.

Because I mostly hunt "Kings Hills" and I've got a deer every year there so there's no other place for me. You just have to know the area.

Season length ample, game numbers good, regulations seem beneficial to hunters and hunted.

Because I don't have to compete with nonresident hunters behind every tree.

Wide range of areas open to the archers that's not open to the rifle.

Uncrowded.

It is not hard to get permission to hunt and there's less people hunting.

We can still hunt with archery "and" rifles.

Good time of year.

I can spot the game, I just have trouble getting a good shot.

There is adequate time for a bow hunter to hunt without worrying about rifle hunters.

It provides a good chance for recreation, generally without a large depletion of the game for other hunters.

Weather and species availability.

Not over crowded, maybe the extra archery fee helps this. The season may be too long.

I don't think that there's anything wrong with it.

Not crowded; long season.

I don't hardly see anyone else, also if they start changing things it's usually for the worse.

I personally like the either sex rule.

I don't have to compete with outfitters, and horseback hunters.

Peaceful time of year (September/October), love bugling elk, lots of animal sightings.

Season is lengthy, however, it might be just a little early.

Best time of year.

Enjoy being able to hunt both archery and rifle season.

Yes, because it is long enough to enjoy.

It suits my needs and wants.

I love it.

I always find game - rarely ever hunt without seeing anything.

The length of season gives you good chance.

Ideal time of the year.

Lots of game during early fall.

It's a long enough season and it's at the right time.

Less people, game less jumpy.

Many roads are open for access during bow season and are not for general season.

The season is long enough, restrictions and regulations are fine.

I saw game and was able to use "cow talk" to call in elk a couple of times and was able to get within twenty feet of deer (although brush was between us).

I like stalking and to see how close I can get to the animals.

Good time of year.

This was my first year.

During the elk rut without rifle hunters.

The hunting has been good for me and I approve of the season as it now stands.

Game is plentiful and not spooky.

Sufficient species herd and well developed habit patterns.

Plenty of game (diversified).

At this time things are going good for bow and rifle.

Lots of areas to hunt.

The quality of hunting is there, along with the populations of each species.

I like to hunt with rifle also, therefore, I can hunt before and

after rifle season with a bow.

Because it's the only way to hunt.

Because the deer population is good.

Good hunting.

Generally, less people afield in certain districts compared to general season.

Because elk are in rut during season and weather is nice.

Yes, except I would like to hunt spike bulls in 319 for archery only.

I like to be in the woods that time of year.

I was able to see game almost everyday.

Yes, except I would like to see the season open a week earlier for deer.

The time of year and length of season are about right. I generally see a lot of animals even though I usually don't get a shot at them.

Yes, except for landowner attitude in area 130.

The season is long enough to allow the working man to hunt.

Low pressure, high satisfaction in sport.

Early season advantage and either sex hunting. No crossbows.

Opportunity to hunt early.

Right time for elk and it's long enough.

It gives a longer hunting season for more outdoor enjoyment whether or not you get anything.

Because generally the season is long enough to include warm weather hunting and into cooler, rainy and snow conditions.

Yes, because there are quite a few P & Y behind our home.

Yes, except I think there are too many hunters who don't follow up after a shot.

I think the time of year is perfect.

I have no problems as far as they are presently regulated.
Because of the length of the 260 zone season.
Because there are fewer out of state people than in rifle season.
Hunting areas are available so far.
It allows me to spend more time in the field.
I think a person has a greater chance of seeing and getting game with the season the way it is.
Great pastime and I am a sportsman.
There is plenty of game for the true hunter.
Best time of the year to hunt, not as many people around.
It gives a hunter a preseason for hunting.
I like to hunt elk in the rut.
Because it allows hunters to hunt two seasons.
Fewer hunters, nice weather, lots of game.
Because there is enough game and little competition.
I see lots of game and not too many hunters, especially in walk in areas.
I feel that the herds are at very good levels and that archery hunting is improving every year.
We have the best hunting and longest season. Who can complain?
Yes, except possibly a shorter season.
Good weather, less hunters.
Lots of game and season set properly.
There's nothing I dislike.
Yes, except opening day should not be on Labor Day weekend.
It's usually the right time of year for elk calling.
Because it gives the bow hunter an extra month before rifle season.

It's a nice time to get out and hunt.

I feel the season is long enough and I appreciate that it begins before rifle season.

Good season to be out in the hunting field.

Early season.

Because if like me and you are unsuccessful during archery season, you can hunt with a rifle later.

It's uncrowded and I like to bugle.

Good recreation, six weekends to spend in the mountains, quality time.

It's fair and safe; when rifle hunting season is open bowhunting is dangerous.

It is right in the prime of bugling season.

Because there aren't a lot of bow hunters in the area I hunt.

It provides the ultimate hunting challenge.

You can always find game if you are willing to get off you behind and hunt.

Allows me to get out and hunt without running into masses of rifle hunters. It's timed right, keeping rifle hunters out.

I am a second year archer and it seems to be good.

There are large numbers of trophy bulls and not much pressure.

Yes, except I don't like the grouse hunters starting the same week.

I've had a lot of success with deer hunting in the past few years.

Because of the hunting opportunity it provides and good elk populations to hunt.

The hunting season is long enough and there is plenty of public land to hunt.

More animals, more land to hunt on.

Quite a few places to hunt.

I like the long season on river bottoms (260) and early elk

hunting.

It gives me a chance to hunt a little more often and for either sex.

It's fun.

First year bow hunting, I enjoyed it.

It's really a challenge and animals aren't too spooked yet.

Because it is more challenging to hunt with a bow than with a rifle.

Early start.

Relaxed hunting, pleasant weather and ample game.

Had a good time.

Everything is fine, just leave it the way it is.

Allows bow hunters to use the natural behavior of the animals before that behavior changes during rifle season.

You always see elk without seeing a lot of other hunters.

My job requires me to work some weekends so the season is still long enough for me to make it out more than once.

Being a first year bow hunter, I thought everything was good!

Yes, except I feel that there are ways to improve.

Nice long season, no rifle hunters.

Yes, except anymore you have to have your own land. I don't like it at all.

More opportunity to hunt private lands. Ranchers are willing to give permission.

Because it's a challenge and in the fall it's nice to get out and see wildlife.

I enjoy hunting and there are plenty of trophies of all species to hunt in Montana.

The length of the season and time of the year seem about right.

There were a good number of bulls in the area I hunted.

Not too many hunters, good time to hunt, have seen plenty of

game, (when it works don't fix it).

Good opportunity for enjoyment while hunting, and quality experience.

Because it's fun.

I see more elk and wildlife.

Because of the bugling season - and a chance for either sex.

Legislation is sound, member M.B.A.

Gives me a chance to limber up and scout around the country before general season.

Because I enjoy hunting with a bow and I think the laws in Montana are satisfactory towards archery hunting.

Adequate game available and a long enough season for hunting. Yes, except I am concerned about the number of bow hunters with little or no skill.

I enjoy the solitude and opportunity to see and learn about the game. Most of my time is just walking and watching.

Runs with elk rutting season.

Yes, as a sport and test of hunting skill but if I depended on the meat, no.

I like it the way it is.

I enjoy the recreation of the long season for a variety of game and the outdoor experience.

Being able to hunt the bugle season.

It is easy to do and fun. The amount of game is awesome.

Competition is minimal, it includes the elk rutting season, and the weather is nice.

Have only done it one year, so right now really don't know how it does.

Season is long enough and you can shoot either sex for the most part.

Real happy with the season as it is, but wish it was longer.

There's plenty of time and lots of game at a good time of the

year.

It gives you a challenge and the game a chance.

Yes, except could have a late season after November.

It offers enough hunting prior to rifle season and the weather is good.

Yes, because I enjoy the odds.

Yes, except for landowner/Fish and Game relations, I'm impressed with most facets of Montana bow hunting.

The season is before general hunting with rifles.

Yes, except party permits needed for five persons.

Lots of game, good time of the year; unfortunately no elk this year.

Plenty of game.

Yes, except the only problem is the nonserious hunters.

A good time of the year to hunt.

Because I can understand them clearly!

The timing and length are satisfactory.

I feel there is numerous trophies for bow opportunity, but not too many for gun opportunity.

I see a lot of elk.

The season length is okay but I would like to see fewer hunters and better trophy quality.

Because there's lots of big game.

Archery seasons are the longest I've ever seen without many restrictions.

There is a long enough season at the right time of the year.

It's best to have it when the elk are in the rut.

Lack of other hunters.

It gives Montanan's a chance to beat the out of state crowd.

I enjoy the weather during September and the uncrowded conditions afield.

Because the season runs during the elk rut.

Nice weather, less hunters.

I love to hunt by the old Indian way, and the regulations are fine.

Archery and rifle season cannot be combined. Rifle season during the rut would be unproductive for elk reproduction.

Yes, except that I find too many other peoples wounded and dead animals - poor shot selection.

Yes, I get to go with my Dad.

Good time of year to hunt. Also Fish and Game hasn't required permits in my area which would ruin it - reason pressure from permitted area.

If the department would leave the seasons as they are and do away with permits in Region 6, it would solve a lot of problems.

It suits me fine but I rarely get to go.

Excellent chance to bugle in bulls with opportunity for shot at trophy bull.

I think we have a lot of land to hunt on.

I wish you would leave the seasons as they are and do away with permits in Region 6.

Less outfitters to put up with!
Because you see more game and there aren't all those orange assholes blazing away!

Can hunt with both bow and rifle.

Because there are fewer hunters and nicer weather.

The season is long enough and it's a good time of the year.

Yes, except deer and antelope populations are way down where I hunt because of too much doe kill.

Good time of year, not too many hunters yet.

Dates are good, no competition from any rifle seasons, black powder etc.

Yes, except 324 needs archery hunting to disperse the large herds

before rifle season.

Not as many hunters as in the rifle season - too many hunters and guides these days.

Season goes through elk bugling and not many hunters.

Because there is a lot of hunting areas, and you don't have to go very far.

Because the licenses are cheap enough to afford and it's fun, even if you don't get anything.

There is hardly any people who bow hunt.

It offers a lot of recreation to a large number of archers.

Yes, except I wish there were more trophy size game.

The season is separate from rifle allowing quiet hunting.

Seasons about the right length, good amount of game animals.

Gives me ample time to hunt.

Yes, except would like to see more locked gates, need less vehicle pressure.

Get to get out during a nice time of year and see lots of animals.

Yes, except I would like to see a deer tag come with the stamp.

Length of season and permit opportunity seems to be good. Also in our area the elk seem to be on the increase.

Most things are adequate as far as rules, regulations, etc.

There are many places but few hunters and lots of game!

See lots of game, not a lot of hunters.

Good hunting opportunities, good deer populations.

Because the elk are in the rut and the deer antlers are rubbed off.

Nice time of year to be out in the woods.

Because the season is about the right length of time.

I don't think we should have to draw for elk permits with a bow.

I can hunt freely the areas and species. Adequate time, reasonable fee.

I feel the season should be shortened by one or two weeks - end season by early October.

Yes, except I would like to see a deer tag come with the stamp. Because I think it gives you a challenge without many hunters.

Can hunt either sex and a person has to be fairly serious about one's ability.

As I live in Bozeman it is close for hunting, however, it is early and warm.

In my area (Belt), people welcome you to hunt on their land with a bow, not with a gun.

It enables to hunt both archery and rifle season.

Good habitat and a lot of excellent country to hunt in.

Because I do very little rifle hunting.

Because the ability to get permission on private property is more open and easier to obtain than regular season.

I live in Montana to hunt elk with a bow. If things change toward the worse, I would go to another state to hunt.

The chance at the elk and the number of hunters in the field suits me fine.

Because I have a good time with no problems.

There is a good working relationship with the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana Bowhunters Association.

It's a great time to be out. If it came after rifle season, game would be too skiddish.

I am seeing and hearing more bull elk.

Generally good length of season.

This is my first year and everything seems satisfactory to me. A chance to get outdoors; most places are open to hunting without having to pay a landowner.

I haven't run into any problems and can't think of any improvements.

I feel the herds of deer and elk are above standard to be able to have an archery season.

Because it gives me a chance at either sex elk and deer.

The game is less weary, and you see a great deal more game.

Liberal bag and length of season - many more hours needed and spent pursuing opportunity for a high probability shot.

Right length of time and is at proper time period.

Time allotted for the season - length and time of year.

Something about getting one on one with a bull elk, and if you haven't been within twenty yards of a six point screaming at you, it's hard to explain.

Plentiful game and plenty of areas closed to motorized travel.

I think it's a great sport and am thankful to have the opportunity.

It is a wonderful season in a great state.

Quality hunting.

Retired - can hunt more days than those employed!

There are a lot of animals and not that many are killed, that I know.

Because right now it's unknown to many people. Keep it that way. It is in a good season.

I like the length of season and I enjoy hunting elk in the rut.

We are not asked to make a choice between bow and firearms.

Available area in Montana vs. number of animals.

Simply because it is not during rifle season!

Lots of opportunity to see big game.

Generous season.

The total length of seasons, bow and rifle, allows more time to be out there watching animals.

I feel that archery hunting offers the sportsman all he needs to

enjoy the outdoors.

Good full season, relatively low pressure, great quality outdoor experience.

Nicer weather and not as many hunters.

Yes, except it would be better if Snow Crest area was open to elk.

Fewer hunters, less of a problem with ATV's and off road vehicle travel.

Bugling.

Few restrictions.

Yes, except I wish you take an animal with a bow and another with rifle.

Long season during which elk are rutting.
We have a long season in good weather and it's still not as crowded as gun season yet.

Plenty of game, hunters not so concentrated yet.

Yes, except it's starting to get crowded.

Less hunter pressure, climate.

It provides me a longer opportunity to fill my tags.

Because it is a way to hunt without being congested with people.

Yes, except could be longer.

Right time of year, right length.

Keep the season from Labor Day to one weekend before the general season but include the last Sunday.

It gives me a chance to hunt longer.

I feel the pressure on the bow hunted animals is minimal.

It's easy the way it is and comfortable.

Long season.

It's fair.

Minimum bureaucratic harassment.

Yes, except I would like to see the deer tag come with the stamp.

Yes, providing the regulations stay the way they are now.

Weather being a main factor, it cannot be controlled.

It's more challenging, it's fun and it's a good time to be out hunting.

It allows for a variety of hunting grounds (hills, flats, mountains).

Good elk population, right time of year.

I have my freedom of choice to where I hunt, and it doesn't cost me an arm and a leg.

Liberal seasons, you can take cow elk, and landowner access.

Weather, fewer hunter, more game seen.

It's fun and we saw more game, but there is still a problem with private land being closed.

It gives you a chance to get out with less people in the woods.

Because I bulged in five bulls and it is the most exciting thing in the world.

Yes, except for our season being so hot and dry these past few years.

It gives a person a good chance of filling a tag.

I was satisfied because I saw plenty of animals.

The regulations on bow hunting are not on a drawing basis.

Some landowners are very reluctant to let one hunt but I got very little time to go this year.

Yes, except I would like to see some late season hunting.

I enjoy it because there are fewer hunters in the field and then usually it is only the more serious hunter.

Because it gives bow hunters and rifle hunters the same amount of time to hunt.

It's more challenging sport. It's more peaceful and there's not as many hunters.

Because I hunt for pleasure. I just like to get out. If I don't

get anything it's fine.

A challenge.

Because it offers a great challenge.

I like the solitude during archery season plus more open elk districts vs. rifle.

Yes, except it's getting too popular.

It seems to be working.

It gives you a long time before gun season.

The length of season and time of year is just right.

Yes, except I feel it could be made better my more road closures and walk in areas.

I'm new to state, but opportunity seemed ample. I found very little competition where I went.

It hits bugling time pretty well.

Long season during good fall weather.

Could be shorter; have longer break between seasons.

I enjoy the season as it is for the time of year and opportunity.

The season offers adequate time to harvest desired game.

I like the time that the season is at now. We get in on bugling time.

Good long season.

I enjoy hunting that time of year.

Because I feel it offers an excellent opportunity to find game.

Early archery season gives archers a jump. Late season in 170 allows harvest needed for buck/doe ratio.

Main interest is early scouting of deer areas, opportunistically.

Yes, except start bird hunting in upper elevations later in season, at least two weeks.

It takes time to hunt with a bow and archers are given enough.

New to sport, no complaints.

It seems about fair to me.

I bow hunt to get the rut of elk.

It's challenging. It's also a solitude sport with a much longer season and fewer people around.

Animals aren't spooked like they are during general season.

Generally because of the length of the seasons.

There are a lot of deer around and quite a few elk. I like that.

We have a good extra season on deer.

Seems to be working well.

General regulations are good.

It is long enough to give you opportunity to get an animal.

I like the open seasons but would like more access to the land I hunt.

Yes, except I'm worried that too many instant, hightech archers will appear and turn what was meant to be a "primitive" season into something it isn't meant to be.

Lots of animals, good time of year to hunt.

This was my first year. I couldn't hunt due to family sickness.

It gives me more hunting time.

This year there was a low amount of game killed.

I enjoy the early season.

Most roads are open, the length of the season is right, and there are very few hunters.

Archery season opening date and duration is just right.

Nice time of year to hunt, elk are bugling.

I enjoy the bugling season for elk and feel the animals are less spooky.

You have a good chance of getting an elk or deer with the way the season is set up.

It is not yet over regulated.

I like the early season, also the late one in the Gallatin.

Length of season, either sex.

Because it's challenging, great, and fun.

Because you don't have to contend with as many hunters.

I am satisfied with the archery hunt the way it is because it is more peaceful and self-rewarding.

Less people hunting.

Duration of time, lack of competition.

The season seems to be in general, right for Montana.

Bow stamp price, herd numbers, tags available.

Although I didn't get mine I could have got shots at some.

Because there is not as many people and also you see a lot of game, and it extends my hunting.

It's the best in the country (maybe the world). It's partly why I live here.

The season is fine. Either sex is fine.

You have lots of hunting opportunity.

Season is long enough, restrictions are few.

Gives me a month longer to hunt.

Have not yet hunted with a bow.

Just started.

Yes, except I would like to see more special season and open private land.

Provides the most opportunity and allows me to also hunt "gun" season.

Season is long enough to get adequate hunting time in, to be successful, either sex allowed.

The season is long enough and there's plenty of game, and not much pressure.

As prices are now and there is plenty of game to hunt.

Lots of game, low impact by hunters.

Good hunting, few hunters in most districts.

Because there are many trees and haystacks in which to make blinds from.

Less hunters.

Less congestion and it provides me to hunt either sex.

I enjoyed this year (my first), so never realized any problems.

It's fun, and the laws are good enough.

It suits my needs.

Because of the variety of game and terrain to hunt.

Yes, except would also like to see a late archery hunt for elk near Gardiner.

It is fair to the animals.

The ability to hunt males and females and the length of season.

There are still areas available where you don't have to pay to hunt!

I have good landowner relations and it is easy to hunt.

Archery hunting in Montana satisfies my sense of adventure.

Gives you a better chance at a bull, low hunting pressure.

Right time of year, long low pressure season, either sex.

I enjoy it!

Enjoy bugling elk.

Few people in woods during archery season.

You can hunt either sex mostly where ever you want.

Season length and time of year.

The season is long enough to allow success what ever you hunt.

Yes, except I'm disappointed in your permit systems.

Opportunities exist for a variety of different animals in different areas.

I still see many trophy animals in my areas.

I have no complaints about the season.

Plenty of game, challenging, fun, good chance to make "kill", most tags are not limited.

Relatively unrestricted and ample length.

The length of the season and the early opening date.

I like the way they have it set up.

Yes, except I would like to see branch antlered changed back to any bull as branched antlered season puts all hunting pressure on older bulls during gun season.

Enjoy hunting in September with less hunter competition. It's quality hunting.

Lack of pressure, exciting to get so close even if I don't get a shot.

Seasonal time, not many hunters.

Because of the quality and quantity of public land which are available.

It's long and early enough.

It's adequate for me as I can only hunt part time and on weekends.

The season and rules seem fair and give everyone a chance.

Southwest Montana is very well portioned.

Other than some limitations on length, species and sex, it is quite fair and open.

Most bow hunters are committed.

The season is a good length and it takes in the elk rut.

There are ample opportunities to enjoy the sport.

This was I and my sons first year to hunt with a bow. We managed to get away three weekends.

It provides a reasonable amount of time to be in the field and

the weather is favorable to the type of equipment used by archers.

Long season, variety of species.

Uncrowded conditions, good weather, not too much problem getting access although this is changing.

It enable me to get out and hunt and view big game animals in September.

I like the varied oppportunities and flexibility.

We're allow to hunt months in advance without rifle pressure. Missouri Breaks open to bow and during bugle season.

No hunters and find new hunting areas.

Because I feel we have great hunting, but outfitters are starting to take too much access away.

Seasons are long enough and hunting is good.

It's a good time of year and also gives you time before rifle season.

Seasons are adequate and game populations are generally good.

Yes, except I would like to see a late season archery hunt.

In the main area where I hunt elk, the area is closed off and pressure there is minimal.

Provides a fair opportunity for bow hunter to get game.

It gives you time to yourself without lots of pressure.

Yes, except I would like to see spikes protected in all areas.

Availability of game and nonpressure of rifle hunters.

It is a nice time of the year to be out in the woods. Reasonable opportunity to get a bull, and few people seen when hunting.

It allows for a longer (relaxed) season.

I can archery hunt elk and then hunt for bucks with a rifle.

Because I get to hunt for three months with rifle season combined.

Because I live in Montana to hunt and I can hunt from September to December.

Because of difficulty to fill tags we can afford to be given more opportunities.

Because I see a lot less people out that time of year and I like that.

I feel Montana's archers are treated well because of their power.

The lengths and times of the season satisfies me.

Long season, good weather, bugling season.

Because the season coincides with the elk rut.

There isn't that much pressure on the private land I hunt on.

Little pressure.

I like having two season to hunt, first archery, and then I can hunt all unfilled tags with my rifle later.

Long season, elk rutting during archery season, except rifle on bear during season.

Always see elk. Only problems are 1) getting more crowded, 2) difficult to track in early fall.

I have taken deer four years running (260 district). I see plenty of elk while scouting. I just can't find them during the season, but they are there.

Low population of hunters, variety of terrain in a given area.

I like the length of season.

I like to archery hunt during the bugling season.

It provides a quality, challenging opportunity to hunt generally unspooked game, and the chance to hunt elk during the breeding season without gun hunter influence. Also it is generally an unrestricted opportunity.

At least I get to see some wildlife.

See lots of game.

Decisions on road closures by the Forest Service and Fish and Game were good for us who do a lot of walking.

Because it is a greater challenge.

I think it's for everyone.

I think the Fish and Game are doing a good job of management right now. I like the way the season and dates are set up.

Because this is my first year archery hunting.

It is set at a good time of year.

Yes, except the six dollar fee is unfair. You don't pay a fee to use a gun to hunt.

Because it offers a more challenging hunt with less people and more game around.

Very challenging.
Lots of opportunity.

Much safer sport than rifle season.

Because I love the sport and like the way it is now!

Have not had any problems with it.

A fairly generous opportunity.

Where I hunt I saw 150 deer the first day, plenty of bucks.

I've had many exciting experiences while archery hunting.

Archery allows a hunter a chance to bugle in trophy bulls and in general see more game. it is exciting every trip out.

Abundant opportunity for several species over a relatively long season, fewer archers than rifle hunters.

Lots of time to hunt, excellent opportunities can mix archery with bird hunting and fishing trips.

I am a novice so I don't have much basis for a strong opinion.

The season is about the right time for bugling large bulls.

Because I love to hunt with a bow or rifle and more time in the hills.

Because there's good weather.

The hunting and seasons are pretty much what I want. Some changes could help.

Yes, because it's nice to be able to get out when the deer are tame and there aren't so many hunters. Also the season offers a lot of time.

I like hunting the area where I live. Very good whitetail hunting on the Milk River.

Archery season rules are very clear and easy to understand.

I feel it works well for most people to schedule their time for bow hunting.

It suits my taste for time and type of hunting.

It's a fairly long season and you can hunt any species when or where you choose.

The elk are in there, bugling season, there are not as many hunters as rifle season.

Because I feel that the rules and regulations are fine for the bow hunter.

I see a lot of game, hear many bulls bugle, and see quite a few elk!

It gives people ample opportunity to get out in the field and enjoy hunting and the fall weather.

It is a good excuse to get out when the weather is nice.

Coincides well with elk rut and the season is fairly liberal in length.

There is plenty of access to the hunting districts.

Ample game, need more backcountry security.

I like the long season and just to be out hunting in a nice time of year.

Solitude, either sex, and game not spooked yet.

Enjoyed it.

Because it's long enough to hunt several times if you work full time.

Less competition than with rifle season, corresponds with elk bugle season.

The season starts at a great time.

I can get in good shape to hunt during rifle season.

While archery hunting, I saw both deer and elk.

Best time of the year, elk are bugling.

Because I feel we have plenty of animals in Montana.

When I go out I see a lot of game.

I still enjoy talking to elk.

Yes, except I think in 380 it should be open for either sex elk and not for spike bulls only or cows.

It's a time to hunt without competing with others.

This was my first archery year. It was nice not having to observe sex (freedom to shoot anything).

Adequate game populations, not as much hunting pressure as general season.

No major problems.

It provides me with unlimited opportunities to harvest the species of my choice.

Even though I didn't score, I hunted a place with lots of huge bucks.

Fewer people, exciting.

Because it seems to work well with the rifle season.

It is set up well.

There are plenty of animals, good weather and not as much competition.

Adequate animals, adequate time.

Sufficient elk, good habitat, good access if kept as is.

Because I like the challenge to bugle in a big bull elk.

It allows me more of a chance to fill my elk tag.

Great weather, undisturbed game, few hunters.

The seasons are adequately timed and long.

In the time I spent I saw very few other hunters.

I moved here after retirement primarily to archery hunt.

Although I've just taken up interest in bow hunting this year, I feel the regulations are satisfactory.

Allows hunters to get out early in the season.

Better than average potential for encountering game without the aggravation of rifle season.

Enjoy getting out.

Just started hunting with a bow, so far it's fun.

Extra hunting time, hunt both species, nice weather.
High animal count, low hunter numbers.

Quality hunting, lots of game (elk adult male bulls), little pressure if you get away from roads.

I feel it is just fine the way it is.

Because it's before the general season.

Length of season, good weather, either sex on elk, few restrictions.

1987 season was extended to five weeks the way it used to be.

I think we should be able to hunt antelope without an antelope license.

This was my first archery season.

I have seen a lot of game.

Plenty of game, nice weather.

I feel Montana had a good archery program.

Regulations are fair, season is adequate and landowners are more tolerant.

I enjoy hunting before general season.

Provides esthetically pleasing quality hunt.

I'd like to have a late season in December and January.

The time of year is nice.

Has worked okay for me when I can hunt.

The season is long and the game numbers are good, but the number of hunters is too many in places.

The weather is usually good and I don't have to wear that lousy blaze orange.

I just purchased a bow in 1987, so I am not that familiar with any problems.

Right time of year and animals aren't spooked yet.

I like the time and length of season.

Few hunters, great sport, excellent challenge, great part of the overall hunting season.

Because not a lot of people do it so it's not overcrowded.

Yes, except "B" tags should be available for archers to purchase in high deer population areas.

Places that I've hunted don't appear to be overcrowded.

Fewer hunters than gun season, more challenging hunt.

Adequate length of season.

It's the prettiest time of year and I like observing the game and the country.

I feel it meets my needs as is now.

Long season, either sex hunting.

Ample time and less pressure on game and hunters.

Low pressure, lots of game, length of season.

We hunt elk most of time and see more elk in archery season. Because I can study game before rifle season before they are spooked.

Many quality experiences.

There are few hunters in the field and it is very challenging.

Offers hunting season before rifle season opens.

I like the length of the season and I have found most other archery hunters to be ethical.

It allows for hunting of either sex and before the big game is so spooky.

Like the early and long season.

The opportunity exists to pursue different species in different areas at minimum cost.

Gives the bow hunter an opportunity to bugle in elk.

Few other hunter during season.

I like the way everything is set up as is, just fine.

The bow season occurs during the rut for elk and extends through the rut season.

Not an exceeding amount of regulations.

Provides the means to hunt without conflict with rifle hunters.

Yes, except I would like to see it last about thirty days longer.

Because a person doesn't have to travel a long distance to have good hunting.

It's fine right now.

New bow hunter - no problems experienced.

Our party of three got two elk.

Because there are enough game to hunt.

Either sex, liberal season length; although a high percentage of hunters have wounded an animal they couldn't find.

Long enough time before general season.

I have been able to hunt when and where I wanted.

Nice season - long enough. I believe the Fish and Game are letting too many cow elk go each year, not necessarily by bow but by rifle also. Let's build the herd not maintain it!

Excellent idea on 621 for unlimited archery permits for your first choice on elk permits.

Good time of year.

All your rules and regulations are good for my hunting area.

You see more game during the rutting season (elk).

There is plenty of big game and there are not too many hunters.

Because of high animal numbers and low hunter numbers.

Good time of year and gives me an opportunity for good exercise and a change.

Opportunity and quality is generally excellent. However, in some limited areas (e.g. Missouri Breaks, Missoula vicinity) crowding is a serious problem especially with elk hunting.

There is a lot of wide open land that is legal to hunt on.

Hunting is still very good. All you have to do is hit your target.

It's not broke, don't fix it, but improve it if possible.

It's a good season.

Though there is always room for improvement, I feel individual choice is important. We now have this.

It is fun to go bow hunting.

It makes a great way to spend the weekend during the early fall.

Length of season, allows hunting is varying conditions (weather).

Adequate number of big game animals.

As it stands, it's enough of a challenge to keep it interesting.

It gives a chance to hunt during good weather and during elk bugling. Also good chance to scout for rifle season while hunting.

I get an additional five weekends to chase elk.

Generally satisfied is a broad term that I can elaborate on with the additional questions.

Liberal seasons, not too many hunters, good game populations.

By national standards we are very fortunate to have archery and rifle season both.

Because in September it is usually cool and enjoyable to hunt,

and there is plenty of game to hunt.

You can hunt either sex on deer and elk.

But there are too many hunters that shoot too far (crippling game).

Landowners.

It gives you a chance to hunt areas where you have to have a special permit to hunt with a rifle.

Yes, except we can always make improvements.

The hunting season is long.

Few hunters during archery only time and makes me feel safer.

The hunting season is long.

Good time of year and pretty fair amount of time to hunt.

Best quality, no crowds.

Time of year allows opportunity to spend time hunting.

Not many hunters afield, however, permits are getting harder to draw because hunter numbers are increasing.

Good - fair animal populations.

Enjoy the challenge of stalking game.

The extra time afield but it would be nice to have a season after rifle hunting.

The seasons are timed appropriately and the hunter's and wildlife's needs are met.

Yes, except I would like to see more trophy bulls.

Yes, except I would like to see special elk tags open to bow hunters in Ruby River area.
I'm able to enjoy hunting and walking without big game rifles going off everywhere.

Not too much competition and more game than in general season.

The population of wildlife is good. There's plenty of public land.

Overall things seem all right, but I see too many people not

following all the rules.

Length of season is good and coincides well with elk rut. There is a good number of branch antlered bulls. Possibly set aside areas for archery only for deer.

I have no problems with the way it is now.

Very good areas.

It's not dangerous; it's serene; except in those areas where moose and bear rifle hunting is allowed during archery season!

Maybe because I have been fairly successful.

It allows me to hunt during the rut and scout for general season.

I just like it like it is.

The season begins at a good time weather wise but could end on an earlier date.

As far as game numbers only - I do not support early elk season.

Length of season; safety due to no rifle hunters to contend with; additional hunting in area 260.

We have a six week season with very little restriction.

Freedom to hunt most hunting districts in the state.
I'm satisfied with the area I hunt because there are relatively few people.

Length of season; price of stamp; restrictions.

Lots of good area that is close; nice time of the year to hunt.

It allows me to hunt elk with a bow during the "bugle season" without competition.

Long seasons; adequate game.

Because it expands my regular seasons and allows me to hunt with both bow and rifle in a season.

Good season without a lot of regulations.

Reasonable season length; fair game populations; few hunters.

Light pressure; most areas open.

Because I like it the way it is!

It's good the way it is.

It present equal opportunity to all ages and income levels; good time to hunt.

Because it is an enjoyment to hunt and not be overrun with people. As it now stands, it seems like the ratio for bow hunters against game is about right.

There is a lot of area back there to hunt if you are serious.

It is the right time for bugling.

Season is long enough to do some serious hunting.

I like hunting during bugling season.

It gives the bow hunter the ability to hunt the game before they are spooked to death.

The dates of the season are good provided rifle hunting isn't allowed. I do think though, that shotgun should be allowed in 260.

I'm generally satisfied although not happy.

I think it is a very challenging sport but it doesn't do any good when you got people with guns during archery.

Season is long enough and fits in quite well with elk bugling season.

I like bow hunting elk during the rut.

Bugle season.

Season's are long enough, however, slob hunters are gonna lose it for us.

Elk can be bugled this time of year. Fall rains usually occur making woods quiet.

It's a good time of year to hunt elk because of the rut.

They give you a fair amount of time to hunt. Could be more diversified.

Because during the archery season there isn't very much game taken out.

Montana is a super state!

The long season and time of year plus adequate game numbers provide great opportunity.

Because it gives me sufficient time, without sacrificing my work.

Time of year; less people in woods; more skill needed.

Plenty of time to hunt; nice weather; have mountains to myself; lots of game; fees are reasonable.

It comes at a nice time of year. I'm not afraid of being shot. Archers must identify their target before shooting.

Generally speaking, but would like a post season hunt.

Yes, except maybe should be a little shorter so game can adjust to different seasons (archery and rifle).

Abundance of game.

Good regulations; limits per area (species and sex) no problems for me.

Safe; challenging; privacy; healthy experience.

Because of the freedom of the regulations and time of hunting, you're not pressured.

Because of length and can still hunt with rifle.

Length of season is okay; weather is good. Extends my hunting season and gets me out.

Length and time are good.

I realize it is tough! Good time to hunt.

Enjoy the season length and having less hunter competition than the general rifle season. Also because it occurs during the elk rutting season.

Beautiful time of the year to be out because it's so early.

I've got plenty of time to enjoy the hunt.

I like the length of the season because of my work.

Fair, long enough season without firearm hunter competing.

Because it gives me the opportunity to get out and tune myself for the upcoming rifle hunt.

1) Because archery stamp is a reasonable price; 2) elk are in the

rut; 3) low management impact.

Long season allows more opportunity to hunt on flexible schedule.
Good weather.

It's early enough in the year, not too cold.

There is a lot of game and land to hunt in Montana.

Despite the increase in pressure, it is still a more quality experience than rifle season.

Length of season and time of year.

I like the early season while elk are bugling and I like the duration.

Season and weather; not too much hunting pressure yet!

I like hunting with both rifle and bow.

Because it is challenging and there's not too many people.

Plenty of opportunity for game.

Because it gives me an opportunity to study the habits of animal I hunt and I feel the early fall is the time to do this.

I'm satisfied with quality of hunting, but would like to see incompetent, nonserious hunters eliminated.

I do think may be as there are more and more archery hunters each year, maybe bull elk will have to be by permit.

Seasons are set right and Fish and Game is doing a good job.

Because there aren't many hunters and a lot of game.

The length of season and time of year of archery hunting allows a diversification of recreation, not hunting only; camping, fishing, and hiking with a family is possible also.

Easier to get around in warmer weather.

Not competing with black powder.

Good weather.

Season is the right length; limited number of hunters; righttime of year.

There is a good game population to hunt if you can find enough

time to hunt.

The season is a good length at the best time of year.

It works.

It gives hunters a chance to get out before the rifle hunters, and bugle elk etc.

Yes, except would like to see a late archery season.

The season is pretty long and you can hunt what you want to pretty much and in different areas!

It works and they don't get that much game. I've got one bull in five years of hunting.

I enjoy the challenge and the chance to get out and hunt a lot of areas during a good season of the year. Seems to be good herd size with plenty of mature bulls where I hunt. Doesn't appear to be much pressure either.

Pressure is generally lighter and the season long enough to enjoy.

There is plenty of game and land to hunt without the pressures of rifle season.

I get to talk to the Lord in nice weather on the mountain.

The hunting in Montana is some of the best in the U.S. as far as open seasons go.

Because it is that time of year when the elk temporarily drop their guard.

I see no problems with the current system. I think it gives the animals more of a chance to survive hunting.

I think the dates are very appropriate and it extends ones hunting opportunities.

The length of the season and the type of game to hunt is adequate.

It presents a hunter to spend more time in the woods.

Proper timing.

It's not the archery hunting that needs to be revised but the rifle hunting for either sex animals.

Nice long seasons.

It is in a good time because game gets scared during rifle season.

Plenty long enough; either sex is available.

I saw a lot of game.

It gives me excellent opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and is challenging.

Yes, because of the amount of deer seen.

Long season; during bull bugle time.

Gives me extra time to get game.

There are plenty of deer.

Every year it seems like someone I know gets an elk.

We get a good number of days in the field at the prettiest time of the year.

Not all the regulation hassle of other states.

A generous amount of game to hunt and adequate length of archery season.

Not so many people.

No pressure.

Yes, except I would like to see archery only permits issued on all special drawings.

Yes, except I do not like paying a special fee for a bow tag, rifle hunters don't.

I would like to see bow hunter education for all bow hunters prior to receiving an archery permit.

Yes, except should start one week later.

You hunt in warmer weather.

I have no problems with it.

Equal opportunity for most hunters.

Less hunting pressure; the elk are in the rut; branch antlered elk and four point or better mule deer in 333.

Works out well for my lifestyle and where I like to hunt.

As a hunter it gives me two seasons to hunt big game.

I have permission to hunt a lot of private land and usually see a lot of game.

Because I feel game populations are high but so because too many amateur are careless and nonproficient bow hunters.

It is set up good and it is at the right time and length.

Five week season; enough game to make it interesting; either sex; great time of year; bows only.

I have only been archery hunting this year but I didn't have any problems.

It is the right way.

Elk bugling.

Because it falls during the elk rut.

Because it's a long hunting season.

I like the archery only areas to harvest animals where guns can't safely be used.

A lot of access on national forest land.

Hardly anybody is out where I hunt.

Yes, except still needs to be open after rifle season.

Long season, best time of the year.

Because I have only lived in Montana for three years. I came from Penna, and it is much better here. I haven't been in Montana long enough to see trends.

It allows me to hunt the way I want from September through November.

Yes, except that spike bulls should be allowed in the Gallatin Canyon.

Outstanding opportunity.

Yes, except for orange requirement during gun season.

Because it's a great place to hunt.

Season is just long enough but not too long.

Hunters have good opportunity to hunt. There's one exception, Region 6, elk hunting by permit was a mistake causing large shift of hunting pressure to adjacent areas. It should go back to the way it was.

Bow hunting is a challenge and with the time of the season it's not so crowded.

Excellent time of year and length of season.

Love the outdoors - a longer season would be nice.

Gets me out of school.

Less competition with fewer hunters afield; better weather; able to see much more game than during general season. But we need more land open to hunting and larger herds.

Deer are becoming plentiful. Elk population is improving but access is deteriorating.

It's still possible to find good areas to hunt without seeing lots of hunters.

Lots of opportunity to hunt with minimum restrictions.

Generous season; during elk rut.

Can hunt any regular open hunting district for either sex.

The advantage of seeing game before rifle season.

Watching and hearing the game at this time of year.

It starts early and you can shoot either sex deer or elk.

Weather is usually good and I usually see game.

Generally I am satisfied. I believe that too many animals are lost due to lack of tracking snow, and I would rather see a late season than an early season.

It makes me feel free.

Gives me more hunting abilities.

Generally satisfied, however there is room for improvement.

The timing is right for weather, rut (elk) and length of season dress and equipment.

It gives you a chance to hunt before the deer are spooked.

Yes, except it conflicts with bird season. One should be changed (bird season).

Not too much hunting pressure.

The season is long enough and a good time of the year for this type of hunt.

Elk season is well timed. Need late season deer hunt.

I think there is little to improve on.

I find it enjoyable and a challenge.

I like the length and time of year for archery season.

It offers a chance to get out and enjoy beautiful September.

It's enjoyable with a better than average chance to see game.

Adequate seasons, adequate game.

There is an archery only season and, around Missoula, an archery only district.

Gives us more hunting days and more variety.

Montana has very good seasons. They run long enough and start early enough.

Because it gives every bow hunter enough time to hunt.

Lots of public access land.

It allows me more hunting time.

It is a great place to hunt.

It's perfect, it's long and I have a chance at scoring.

It's a quiet, beautiful time of year. One sees all species of big game unharrassed.

Seasons are long enough and there's ample game.

Because it's a better time of the year; less people; more action concerning wildlife.

Good preseason rifle scouting and excellent opportunity for elk.

Because it provides people to hunt in archery season and in rifle season.

It's a good place to hunt.

Gives me the opportunity to sharpen my skills with deer and elk.

Time of year and length of season.

Because I am hunting elk in Idaho now. Hunting deer in the river bottom is excellent.

Long season; no rifle hunters; bugling season for elk.

Opportunity to hunt rutting elk.

Mostly because it expands my hunting season and gives me more time to hunt.

It meets all of my expectations of what archery should be.

The extended season and B tags available for Missoula Valley.

This is my first year. I really don't have much of an opinion of it yet.

Because the time frames available allow ample opportunity for success.

I would like to see the elk archery season open on August 21.

Because there's not too many people hunting then.

Because it is what I feel an archery season should be.

I hunted for two years with my bow and find it a more challenging and satisfying sport.

More opportunity to get your game.

It gives me a good opportunity to take an elk.

It seems to be in pretty good shape.

The time is nice and the game herd is okay.

Good season length. Generally run well. It's my season rather than gun.

Seeing plenty of game.

Good population of game, good seasons. But could use some changes.

I like the one on one feeling. It would be nice to see more game.

I feel the rules and regulations are set up right.

Season is long enough, plenty of game.

Season is at right time and length, but why not an archery only area?

Freedom to choose what and where to hunt.

Long season.

Generous seasons, little hunting pressure.

It's fair to hunters and animals.
I enjoy it.

Any change is usually not in our favor.

Killing an animal with a bow isn't everything. Just being out there is.

Ample seasons, variety of species.

No restrictions.

Provides recreation opportunity with family whose time is restricted by school.

I feel there are better hunters out during archery season and I see a lot of people during rifle season who shouldn't hunt.

Length of season, time, weather, and either sex.

It gives me a chance to enjoy nature during one of the most enjoyable seasons of the year.

Even though I didn't have the opportunity to get out much, it was still there.

I used to live in Pennsylvania.

It is good the way it is.

I like the length of the season.

The timing with the elk rut is perfect.

It gives you a chance before rifle season.

It puts me in the woods when the animals are not so spooked.

Not competing with black powder.
It's pretty liberal.

Time of year; special archery areas; length of season; during bugling.

Hunting quality improving with greater game numbers.

Long seasons.

I would like to see the game refuge opened more with less areas closed.

The season is long enough to include the peak of the rut in all areas hunted.

Yes, except for the problem of trying to get on property on the river bottom.

Good time of the year to see big bucks and big bulls.

Long seasons; lots of opportunity; no crossbows or black powder; no other competition during bow season.

Yes, except there are less large bulls in the northwest region last few years.

It's a good opportunity to hunt before the crowds.

It is generally good and I like it.

Good opportunities at variety of game.

I enjoy the early season (bugling elk).

Length of season; opening and closing dates.

The season gives you a chance at the unpredictable weather and rut.

It's quiet. Not so many people driving the roads as in rifle hunting.

Yes, except too many outfitters.

The season is long enough and falls at the right time of the year.

Best time of year to be out.

It's just fine.

It's okay.

Good length and during rut.

Because it's the best season in the United States and there's no "either/or season".

It gives me enough hunting days to be successful.

Good length, harvest regulations.

Best time of year.

I like the hunting season now because there are plenty of deer.

It's quiet. It's during bugling season. And there are some archery only districts.

The season of five to six weeks is adequate. I always see a lot of game.

Because it allows for a long hunt in my district.

I enjoy seeing game every time out.

Less people in the woods, except too many out of state hunters and outfitters.

Good opportunity to hunt during a quality time and without the overabundance of hunters. Better chances to encounter more game.

Long season, good weather.

It gets me out in the woods and I see lots of things, even if I don't shoot anything.

There is plenty of game and plenty of chances. I've bugled in plenty but never had the shot I wanted.

Adequate time to hunt and nice weather.

Because it is open for either sex and during the rut.

Because it is open for both sexes and before the rifle season so you have a fair chance.

Yes, I feel the season corresponds well to elk mating season to better our chance.

Everything is okay.

System is fair.

It satisfies all my hunting needs.

Long season; not too crowded; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks doesn't much mess with it.

The length of the season is nice and I can also hunt with a rifle during the rifle season.

The management is good and there is a good population of animals.

Length of season allows the archer to pick the weather he likes to hunt in.

There are many animals but the elk in rut is my highlight.

Because you can still go hunting and not run into a lot of other hunters.

Anyone can hunt.

Opens early enough and allows hunting statewide vs. units; either sex and variety of game at same time.

Allows hunting without competition from guns.

Everything works out great for my hunting time.

Generous hunting season; good numbers of game and a high quality of trophy animals; very few hunters afield.

Yes, except I would like to see the season start a week later, for it would run later into fall.

I like the either sex.

The areas that I hunt seem to have a good animal population.

Because we almost and always get a deer or shot, and you can go anywhere.

Because it is all right.

Because there's not as many hunters, and it's more challenging.

Enjoy the privilege of archery hunting without the congestion of rifle hunting.

Because I have no problems with hunting during archery season.

Because I get to spot big game and find where they all are.

Yes, except make a choice between bow or rifle hunting.

Seasons are right length and time.

I believe the time factor for bugling elk for archers is about right. I don't have very many complaints about the archery season.

It's long enough to get some weekends in because I don't have enough time after work.

You get your chance at the does and small bucks, but the big one you want is too smart.

It gives me an opportunity to see and observe wildlife before the rifle season.

Because there is bugling season and a longer season in the river bottom.

Timing, but would like a little longer season.

There are fewer hunters than in gun season. But it is starting to be a problem too!

Because it gives people the chance to a challenge, and also gives game a chance.

It's a new way of hunting and a more challenging opportunity.

As a former New Yorker, I'm especially pleased with all the public land to hunt on.

It is long enough to study game and locate them. Lets you hunt during the rut. Gives the game a break before rifle season.

It's the right time of year for bugling. There's generally good weather. You see a lot of wildlife at that time of year.

Large numbers of game and low numbers of hunters.

Nothing to compare it with, first year hunting.

It allows the most man hours in the field with the least amount of impact on the game.

I have seen an abundance of game and no other hunters.

I see more game during archery season than regular season.

Seems to be an efficient system coordinated with gun season for animal population control.

Because it has a generous time period to hunt for working people.

Inexpensive license; can hunt either sex deer and elk; plenty of animals to hunt.

It is quite liberal and allows a satisfying hunt in most districts.

Can hunt elk during rut; not too many people yet.

Because of the early season.

Yes, except for the weather.

The opportunities for all big game that I hunt are here.

The season is long enough to pursue all species..

I would like to see farmers and hunter get along better, if it works.

I believe the archery season is about right to allow a good chance to get game.

There is a lot of game and a lot of landowners let you hunt on their land.

Like to get out while the weather is nice.

I've only hunted one year in Montana, but from what I've seen I like the way it's set up. It's fine. Just moved here recently.

There's not many archery hunters.

Because of the elk I can see, and damn few hunters.

I see many animals.

To enjoy the outdoors.

The season is long and the herd is plentiful.

It gives me a longer hunting season overall.

Because it is for everyone to enjoy.

Because the time frame gives you the rut to an archer's advantage.

I encounter a good number of animals that meet my standards.

Occasionally hunter density is high.

A chance to hunt elk during the rut.

There's much less hunters during archery.

It's a good time of year.

I think things are good as they now stand; let's not change it.

Because it offers an opportunity to hunt for four months which is important when a person may find that he has to work a weekend or two. Can be picky about the animal I take, also.

Just beginning.

Nice time of the year.

Why end the season on Saturday rather than Sunday?

I have nothing else to compare it to.

The length of the season is about as long as I need.

Plenty of access to national forest land and an excess of early season.

You can hunt both elk and deer in the rut.

Elk are bugling!

Generous seasons; lots of game.

Great for scouts and early hunts, but it's usually hot.

There's nothing wrong with it.

Yes, except I would like to see a three or four point or bigger on elk in the northwest and Bob Marshall.

Because it allows hunting with bow or rifle.

It gives you a chance to get out and enjoy the outdoors longer.

It's fun, very challenging, good exercise, and good practice for gun season.

Because it offers more hunting days, which allows me to get out in the field more often.

It is a great feeling to be out and hear the elk.

Includes bugling season for elk and does not include rifle season.

It runs during part of grouse season and I get wood while I hunt.

The season is fairly long without a lot of needless restrictions.

Gives enough time to hunt, but you should have people choose bow or rifle.

Seems like a long enough season and you can go anywhere - almost.

Long season; varied hunting opportunities; not much competition.

Allows you to hunt any district you want.

Because I feel the rules and regulations allow me to hunt adequately.

Good regulations; proper season length.

Normally see elk every time I hunt.

Abundance of animals.

The long season allows you to hunt in a variety of places for a variety of game.

I feel there is enough deer and elk around that I had a chance at.

Good regulations.

I think that there is plenty of time for hunting.

It's challenging.

I like to hunt with both bow and gun.

Many opportunities to score lots of bulls.

It's a good time of year temperature wise and there are fewer hunters.

Ample season length and opportunity for either sex animals.

Good elk population except low on bulls.

Because it occurs during the elk rut.

I can hunt after work for three hours per day.

Because you can still hunt either sex and either species in the areas you choose to hunt in, before general season.

Lengthy season and time of year.

I like archery hunting and I also like rifle hunting.

You have a choice to where you want to hunt. It's a great time to be outdoors.

Need more areas for bow only.

Yes, except I would like to see late season hunts.

Season is long enough and game is plentiful.

We have good big game numbers in elk herds and good bull/cow ratio.

An opportunity to hunt elk during the bugle season.

I enjoy getting out at that time of year.

Good time of year.

It's great.

Set up gives archers the chance to hunt before game becomes wild or spooky.

Many places to go.

It's open for either sex.

Plenty of animals.

More challenging than rifle hunting; less hunters!

I came from Idaho two years ago. Hunting there was more restrictive; shorter seasons.

There are plenty of animals of each species around the area I hunt.

There is not a lot of bow hunters yet.

I feel the season is well balanced and gives a person time to hunt in any part of the state.

The season is long enough but there could be more special hunts at the end of the season.

Weather; area is accessible.

Season is right time of year.

The seasons are long enough to give me flexibility to hunt and take care of other priorities during the hunting season.

Because you have plenty of time to hunt and a lot of places to hunt.

Not as many people to deal with.

There are not many other hunters out and that makes it enjoyable; also a lot of game is sighted.

Because I have the option of archery or rifle.

It's less crowded that rifle season. There's a fair chance to kill a trophy bull.

Because I like the season because it is long and you can buy a B tag for does.

Because of the length.

It gives us the opportunity to hunt at a much better time of year.

I am satisfied except for the overpopulation of hunters in certain areas.

It gives hunters a chance to hunt the elk rut, and hunt before it's too cold.

It's a lot of fun.

Because it's during an appropriate time to be in the field for archery.

I think the regulations now concerning bow hunting are fair although I can see a problem if the number of archers continues to grow at present rate.

Pre-rifle hunting gives better odds of getting an elk.

The opportunity to take big game with a bow is as good or better than anywhere else in the country.

Presents opportunity to hunt in numerous weather conditions.

I enjoy my time spent bow hunting the most of my outdoor activities.

The season runs during the perfect time of year for bugling.

Plenty of game.

Plenty of time.

Easy access to areas; either sex hunting.

I enjoy the sport very much, and you can't please everybody all the time.

The season is long enough to hunt a large area - different areas in order to find game.

Because it is working well for both bow and rifle hunters.

I generally hunt on weekends and a few days during the week, and the length of season allows me to get out as much as I like to.

Because it is more of a challenge.

It's an enjoyable way to hunt before gun season.

I am afforded the time I need during the proper season.

Lots of elk, see lots of rag bulls.

Adequate access to areas as well as less competition from other hunters.

Long season; less hunting pressure.

Other than my lack of time last year, I usually do well.

Animals are available and pressure is fairly light.

The dates seem just about right. More bow hunting only areas.

Because I can hunt with bow and gun. It will cut money if you have to hunt rifle or bow.

It allows me to use another method other than rifles.

I go hunting more to get out in the woods rather than for the kill. This gives me an excuse to be in the woods longer.

Because there is enough room for everybody.

Because the season is long enough, and it is statewide, and you can kill either sex.

There are less hunters than in general season and I see a lot more elk.

Weather and less competition.

1) Season comes at right time; 2) It is a reasonable length; 3) It gives every hunter the freedom to choose to hunt or not to hunt with bow and arrow.

It's during the bugling season.

Being able to hunt the varied Montana landscapes from mountains to prairie.

It's not so crowded - easier access on foot.

Good weather; slow time of year.

Because it is during the bugling season.

We have a long enough season at the right time of year and it is not too crowded yeat.

Why not!

Length of season.

Not too many hunters and very few out of state hunters.

I see a lot of game.

The cost is affordable, the game is available, and regulations seem to be appropriate.

It is a great state. It's nice just to be in Montana.

It's something to do in the fall.

The time of the year and length of seasons.

The amount of time (the length of season) is satisfactory.

I like the walk in areas that keep the road hunter out.

You can shoot either sex, branch antlered or spikes.

Gives a two season opportunity.

No problem.

There are few hunters in areas I hunt. It's a long enough season to invest one or two weekends in the field.

Because of the early season and the bugling season.

License fee is acceptable.

The option of being out hunting before rifle season.

Yes, except I believe the bulls should be allowed more privacy for breeding.

The length of the season, and because of less hunting pressure.

It's at the right time of year, and we have an ample season.

Lower numbers of participants and the greater challenge.

Because it's bow hunting only.

Game is plentiful and easy to find.

Nice long season.

Long seasons; archers get to hunt first.

Fun; time of year; little conflicts with rifle hunters.

Because of the number of animals to hunt in this area.

There is plenty of area to hunt without being bothered by other hunters.

Yes, except I don't like the way many are gaining access with 3+ wheelers. I would also like to see an either or situation with respect to gun hunting/archery hunting for elk.

The opening and closing dates for bear and elk coincide with different stages of the rut for elk allowing hunting time for changes due to weather, and bear season coincides with prime berry time.

Always see game.

My first year of hunting big game.

It is nice to hunt during the rut and then hunt with a rifle. Both seasons take different styles.

It provides an excellent opportunity to enjoy hunting.

The concentration of hunters is low, and it's a nice time of year to hunt.

I started hunting twenty-five years ago and quit for about four years and started up again. It gives extra time to be out

hunting early. I have no problems with the seasons.

Long season, many opportunities.

I extends the amount of hunting time I can have.

I like getting out in to the woods.

Plenty of game and not too many hunters.

I like the sport, and there is a good number of game in the area.

Because in early hunting they haven't been spooked by gunfire.

It's pretty good with a few drawbacks.

Because when in Colorado, I had to choose between rifle and bow.
It's great to be able to do both.

It is set up nicely.

It's a good time of the year for me to hunt (before school).

I feel there is no significant impact on any game requiring no changes.

Mostly exercise sport.

It's tough but possible to see and get your game.

I am just starting to bow hunt. I like doing this sport.

I enjoy it the way it is. No changes are needed.

Not a lot of hunters to compete with.

The spots I hunt are uncrowded.

I have bow hunted elk ten year in 311 and 301 and find more elk and more big bulls today than I did then, although they are harder to approach.

Yes, except I believe archery season in district 260 along the river bottom could stand to be longer because the population is reaching drastic proportions.

Because it gives me a long season and more time to hunt.
Seasons are appropriate for rut for both deer and elk.

Because you see game.

Because you can shoot either sex and it's a lot of competition.

Good time of year; elk are bugling.

It becomes before gun season. It's more challenging and gives you extra time to obtain your game.

Less hunters on the field and elk are rutting.

Good hunting.

It is long enough to cover the best bugling season.

It's adequate.

Length of season is just right. It's at the best part of the year.

It allows me to get out into the mountains more.

I have had chances to get close to quite a few herds.

Not too cold and not many hunters; more animal sightings.

Due to the liberal season length and regulations.

I don't see very many other hunters. I see more game. I get out in the mountains when nothing else is going on.

Less crowded than rifle season.

I enjoy the long season.

This was my first season and I saw animals each time I went out. The time of the season.

The weather is nice. The price isn't too high. It is nice to hunt without having to worry about rifles going off and spooking the animals.

Time of year is perfect.

It's a welcome change from rifle hunting.

So far there are not unreasonable demands.

Separate from rifle season.

It goes well with the way it's set up before rifle season.

I enjoy archery hunting in Montana because there was never much to it.

It appears well regulated with out excessive tags issued.

Do have enough time before the general season.

You have plenty of time but the season could be moved to during the rut.

Provides adequate time for outdoor recreation.

Because it is during the elk breeding season and it is before general season.

Grouse hunters are one downfall. The weather, the bugle season are the benefits.

Yes, except I don't like the sound of guns during archery season.

Because I get into the mountains earlier.

Beautiful country.

The early season is good because game aren't spooked and there's warmer weather for stand hunting.

In two words, (right time) in every way.

Uncrowded; quality hunt experience, very low kill ratio; negligible impact on resource.

Not very congested.

Yes, except for the out of state people.

Seems fine to me.

It gives me a challenge while out hunting.

Adequate game and available land.

There are good numbers of elk and not excessive numbers of hunters.

Not much competition from other hunters.

It's open for either sex deer and elk before the general season.

The season is long and the pressure is light.

Because there is a lot more game. Because of the road closures.

Good opportunity.

First time bow hunting.

Extends my hunting season; more opportunity for trophy elk.

See more game and it's less wary than during general season.

Because I don't have to choose between bow and rifle.

Yes, except I am concerned with compound bow hunting and the increasing number of amateur or novice hunters.

Because I have seen the biggest bucks while bow hunting.

Yes, except I had a permit for the Breaks and was very dissatisfied with it.

It accommodates most of my needs for time and quality.

Leave it like it is.

Early season; length of season.

Five week season gives ample time to hunt with bow.

It provides an excellent way to increase hunting recreation without seriously impacting wildlife populations in most areas.

Right time and length; either sex.

Liberal season and limits.

Because I just like being out there. It's so satisfying.

By combining, usually fall and winter; combination of good and bad weather.

I get to hunt before regular rifle hunting opens.

Season dates afford the archer a fighting chance for success.

Yes, except for paying an extra six dollars to hunt.

I have bow hunted for over thirty-five years. My time is planned around bow hunting.

I see plenty of game.

All main species are open statewide (mostly); elk rut is on.

I see lots of animals and have had many opportunities.

Long season; less competition for amount of game compared to rifle season.

Early season that is long enough; no rifle hunting.

Much more enjoyable warmer weather; see more game than gun season.

It has more favorable hunting conditions and there is less hunting pressure from other hunters.

I hunt whitetail area 311 - plenty of deer.

It affords me quality time pursuing and observing game.

I enjoy bow hunting and as far as I'm concerned it is working.

I personally appreciate the aesthetics inherent with this type of individual quiet hunting with little or no company.

Plenty of challenge and fun.

If it isn't broken, don't fix it.

There is plenty of opportunities.

It gives enough opportunity to get out and bag your game.

Yes, except the only thing I dislike is having bird season open the same time as archery.

I can hunt either sex elk and use the time for scouting, teaching my kids and just being in the woods. I take deer meat in area 260.

I think the laws are fair.

It provides a good hunting experience.

I'm just simply happy with all of it.

Good game quantity; not too many archery hunters.

Good sized herds and I can pretty much hunt where ever I want.

Limited numbers of people during the season.

Enjoy early season and few hunters out.

No changes need to be made.

The time and length of the season lets you hunt many types of game without cramming for time.

Because it is the nicest time of the year to be out in the

mountains.

I feel we have very generous seasons which allow for many days of enjoyment and hunting.

Special districts and late hunting districts.

No reason, I guess I don't expect much!

Length of season gives plenty of opportunity to get out.

Because it is longer and should be, because of wood cutting.

Fewer hunters after first two weeks; long enough to wear other hunters down.

Yes, except I would like to see an extra either sex tag in HD 260.

I think Fish and Game does a good job but I don't think it's right that in a district that is special permit, the permits should go to out of staters!

You can bugle elk and it's during the nicest time of the year.

I can special B tag deer with a bow. It's a better chance for meat.

It's a good season and the elk are in the rut , which is exciting to watch and be a part of.

I think that the seasons are timed fairly for both the game as well as the rifle hunters.

Yes, except I would like to see certain areas to stay open longer for the whitetail rut.

Yes, except a late season is areas of light harvest for unsuccessful hunters would help.

It is a good time of year to hunt as the animals are not spooked yet.

Fewer hunters; and even though I've yet to shoot at anything it's more enjoyable.

Yes, except I just wish I had more time to take advantage. I don't think archery season should close two weeks prior to gun season.

Yes, except only if it could be opened longer for the hunter to trophy hunt in the peak of the rut with a bow.

There are enough places to hunt. It is just that you have to be skilled to hunt these areas.

Good hunting dates; ample time.

Lots of time.

Allows more hunting time.

Allows me more hunting time with rifle season.

Little congestion and competition.

When the elk are in the rut I see more of them. I enjoy watching their actions when they don't know they are being hunted.

There is plenty of time to track the animals before season starts.

Because there still seems to be plentiful game, you just have to spend a little time observing herd patterns.

Long season and plenty of game.

It works! Let's not mess it up with more restrictions.

The opportunity is there for everyone to enjoy. The weather is good. Archery hunters tend to be more sportsmanlike than rifle hunters.

No reason - it's okay.

Because it's so close to Bozeman.

Nice time of year to hunt.

Lots of animals to hunt.

During the heat of the rut I have been able to bulge one to fourteen bulls in a day.

Because it's fine the way it is.

Hunters can archery hunt and rifle hunt, but I would like to see game populations increase.

My main sport.

It lengthens the season to include the beautiful fall.

Yes, except in the unusually warm seasons.

Extended hunting season.

Great sport; abundance of game and public land.

There is plenty of protection for the animals and hunter time and access seems good in certain areas.

It's about right length and right time of year.

Because I'm familiar with some of the laws in other states and am satisfied with our laws.

Hunting is much more pleasant than it is during rifle season due to smaller number of hunters.

It allows me to hunt either sex all season.

Not as many hunters out, especially from out of state!

See plenty of game.

It gives me an opportunity to be out in the hills.

I have had enjoyable treps, but have had to work some to get away from other hunters.

Good time of the year.

Archery season is open long enough for me to hunt several good weekends.

Because it lets me hunt the elk during the rut since I use a very short weapon. I can hunt during rifle season. I like the time of year for archery season.

Montana is a great state. We need no change in archery regulations.

The season and laws as they are allow me to enjoy hunting big game for a longer period of time.

Yes, except more public lands should be opened to all recreationists.

Good numbers of game animals and fair access to hunting areas.

I am able to go hunting and not see hardly anybody else.

The season is long and game is plentiful.

Season length is great. I would like to see mandatory courses for archery hunting.

I'm satisfied and I don't see any reason to change the way things are.

Because I love the challenge, but I feel the season should be longer.

Since I am a rancher, I have a much better relationship with a few good hunters that share my hobby.

The deer are scarce but otherwise it is satisfactory.

Planning to go again; loads of game and good people; good stocks - no luck though.

Good game population (except for big bucks); long season, good elk regulations.

Seasons are at the right time and give an archer a good chance of success.

Nice time of year.

Yes, except the branch antlered policy!

Nice weather, plenty of game.

Because I found many places to hunt and saw deer.

Because it's fine.

Not so many hunters and it's challenging.

I am just starting to hunt with a bow and see no problems except no spike elk allowed.

Low pressure. I think Montana should allow cross bows in archery season.

The challenge of both seasons.

Lots of opportunity.

Season is set up just right.

Nice time of the year to be out.

I enjoy being out during early season before rifle hunting starts.

Affords excellent chance for success.

What an abundance of game!.

Quality hunt, low impact, less competition, excellent opportunities.

Because I like it starting on Labor Day weekend.

Other than the lack of snow and the dry conditions, I am very satisfied with the standards set by the FWP.

I am pleased with every aspect of archery hunting in Montana.

Bow and rifle seasons should be moved back one week.

Season is adequately long to prevent concentrated hunting pressure. I can hunt all species and am not pressured into tailing poor shots due to time, species or "either/or" pressures (i.e. can rifle hunt if needed).

Because I almost always see a lot of game.

The length of the season is reasonable and so is the hunting opportunity without harming any other type of hunter.

The programs now have greatly improved the hunting in my area.

Good season length; my only disagreement is with early opening rifle season and rifle - moose season at the same time we are in camouflauge.

Season is sufficient to locate and attempt to harvest game with little crowding.

I like it that many areas are open to either sex. Season could be longer.

Because I like to hunt bull elk during the rut.

Because of the amount of game and hunters.

Lots of opportunity and game nearby.

Because I can shoot a cow elk plus I see more animals. Season should be longer.

I see a lot of elk and deer while out.

Good numbers of animals (especially whitetails); like challenge.

I feel it gives the hunter some quality time in the woods. Lots of game.

Lots of opportunity; good time of year.

It's a long season that allows you to hunt in a variety of weather.

Because it works out good for me.

There is enough time to hunt all species in each district.

It offers many opportunities for archers.

Because it is an earlier season.

Because it gives the person who does not draw a rifle permit a chance to hunt the Missouri River.

Yes, except I can't understand the bow hunting fee because if I kill a deer with a bow I can't rifle hunt. Why can't I pay a higher bow hunting fee of twenty-five dollars and then be allowed to also kill with a rifle.

I can get more hunting time with bow and rifle seasons.

Plenty of time, little competition.

Being my first year, I felt it to be satisfying to me.

I feel that the hunting standards that are being used now are satisfactory.

Because it gives us some time to get out in nice weather a get in shape.

Yes, except I would like to see a stamp required for gun hunters also, not just bow hunters!

Time of hunting dates and length of seasons is good.

Like early season.

Not a lot of pressure.

Long season gives opportunity to hunt more (killing is not important).

Hunting hard like I do I see a lot of country and animals but there are too many weekend warriors out there I'd like not to see.

The seasons are the right time and length.

Elk numbers and number of branch antlered bulls seem to be on the increase.

It's a challenge; it's fun just to see the deer and try my luck.

But it could be longer.

A lot less hunting pressure.

Because I like the season the way it is.

Yes, except you should require all bow hunters to pass a bow hunters education course.

Special permits, long season, grouse season concurrent.

Yes, except I would like some snow to track with.

Yes, except bird season is a major problem - moves the elk into rougher country.

Because it is in the time span (September and October) when the weather is enjoyable.

The number of hunters is not a problem, unlike gun season.

Yes, except bird season causes extra noise.

It's not too populated to enjoy without being bothered.

Solitude, good opportunity for success, relatively few hunters, affordable cost.

Yes, except the only problem is that there is getting to be more bow hunters.

It is such a nice time of the year to be in the woods.

Less hunters afield and ample opportunity to enjoy the sport.

Because the season is general with very little places you can't hunt.

Minimal hunting pressure, beautiful time of year to be outdoors.

I like to bugle. If the season was different you couldn't bugle.

Limited pressure, good game populations.

Archery requires more skill and is my preferred hobby and sport.

Less pressure and overcrowding than during gun season.

The hunting pressure or lack thereof still allows a quality

hunt.

Because of the opportunities offered.

Season is long enough and general enough.

Season length is reasonable.

Because it gives you an idea where to rifle hunt and gets you ready.

Yes, except all that it needs is a longer season and a few less people.

You can get either sex; good weather; taking photos.

Yes, except antelope, should be able to buy tag for archery statewide.

There aren't all that many bow hunters around in Dillon.

Changes bring about restrictions and there are plenty now.

Because every time I went out last season I saw either deer or elk.

Everytime I went out I saw big game, like deer, elk, and sheep.

There is still lots of game being killed, and there is still an abundance of game.

I like it just the way it is.

One problem is there's too many hunters with little or no shooting expertise. Overall archery hunting is good.

Montana has a wide variety of hunting and you can hunt several species at the same time.

It gives me a chance to reach all areas in nice weather.

It is a month before rifle season and there are fewer hunters out.

Because I hunted river bottom does and saw a lot of deer.

I feel the seasons and regulations are reasonable as they now stand for all who enjoy the sport.

The areas to hunt are so vast and I love the outdoors!

Enjoy being outdoors.

It gives us five weeks with the bugling season in the middle of it.

Yes, except I'm not satisfied with some of the hunters I have met!

Yes, except I think that too many areas are permit only.

Because 1) I don't have the pressure of rifle season; 2) I know I have hunting to fall back on to fill my tags; 3) I know that I don't have to take a shot at something that I'm not sure I can hit!

Because it's a good time of the year and you can call the elk.

Long seasons.

It allows me to hunt during the elk bugling season and allows me to preseason scout before general firearm season.

It's challenging and a lot of fun.

It is open over most of the state with a few exceptions.

It is long enough to get out to hunt. You can hunt different areas.

The opportunities and challenges are very satisfying.

Good time for season and the length is right.

Nice time of the year to be outdoors.

Because there's a special season.

Because there are no other hunters. But I would prefer a primitive weapons hunt at this time to include muzzle loaders.

The season allows for bugling and early hunting.

I have not been archery hunting for a long time. It suits me fine.

It's a good season, the only problem is the different groups trying to change it.

A person sees plenty of big game and it's easy to find uncongested hunting.

I feel the department is doing a very good job. the numbers of game are up and it's good to see this early in fall season.

Yes, except for the closure of area 324 for archery hunting.

There seems to be plenty of game and opportunity to see and get said game.

Serves my hunting preference.

Isn't much pressure.

I feel the Game Department is doing a good job in setting archery seasons.

Number of animals seen.

Nice time of year; coincides with elk rut; fairly long season.

Yes, except I would like area 324 to open this year.

I don't hunt that much and it's fine for me.

The either sex law really helps me get some meat.

I usually hunt of private land so there's no interference from others.

I'm satisfied with the present regulations.

It's my first season.

Because it allows me to hunt more.

Yes, except I can't get out much so I would like to see a longer season.

Ample time to hunt with either sex and species for most big game.

Allows a person to begin hunting earlier in the year and continue through rifle season if unsuccessful.

Season is long enough I can hunt without missing work.

Long season, low pressure, fair game population.

No rifle hunter competition; perfect for elk bugling; time matches up well.

During elk rut; no general season at the same time; best time of year!

Early season weather makes my hunting more enjoyable and the excitement of a big bull bugling is enticing.

Because the game aren't all shook up but I wonder what effect it has on bugling.

Good time of the year to hunt; pregeneral season; and during elk rut.

Though I haven't killed anything with my bow yet (in three years bow hunting), I do feel it helps my opportunities for success.

It's fair to the game and hunter.

Little pressure from other hunters.

Because I like it this way.

Private landowners give permission easier.

Montana archery is very open. It gives hunters the freedom to hunt in as many areas and for all species he wants.

When you see animals they are not all running from somebody chasing them.

I like the season during the elk rut. Because it is during bugling time and few hunters but archers are there!

There are less hunters and it's a lot bigger thrill when you can talk to the elk.

It is a long enough season and at the right time of year to cover the elk rut if the hunt is early or late.

Montana offers excellent opportunities for archery hunters.

We have adequate seasons and I don't want to see them changed.

It gives us a chance at elk during bugle season.

I only hunt elk around my home and the dates work out just right.

It affords myself and many others the chance to hunt early. I am not a serious bow hunter, but just like the opportunity to hunt a few days in September because I don't always know if I'm going to hunt and I am sure my wife never makes up her mind until the last minute.

It seems to be a fun and fair sport the way it is.

Because if I don't get my elk or deer with my bow I still have my rifle.

Provides reasonable amount of time to be successful if hunter has the available time himself.

I see numerous animals of every species and not many hunters.

Length of season and limits are very good.

Yes, except it is increasingly congested, but so goes the world.

I like the time of year and length of season.

I encountered no problems with archery hunting in Montana. There is an abundance of game to be hunted.

We have a fair amount of big game on public land.

Archery hunting is more difficult. I like the long season.

I love to hunt.

There's very little hunting pressure and game is not disturbed.

Season is long enough and opportunities are there.

There is less hunter congestion and competition and it provides me an opportunity to hunt either sex.

Because it's a pretty fair season.

More game, fewer hunters, although that changes every year.

Because of more road access and not many hunters; also there's good weather.

Because it allows archers their own special season to hunt.

I like an early season to hunt.

Good hunting.

I'm too ignorant to have any criticism about the subject.

The early season gives us a chance to hunt the game in a low key environment.

There are adequate season and no excessive hunting pressure from bow hunters yet.

It's a nice time of year; it's challenging; there's less hunter congestion and competition.

Very few hunters, plenty of game.

Because it is good country and there isn't many hunters.

Uncrowded hunting atmosphere.

I see more elk and deer running around than rifle season.

It gives you a chance to hunt without the interference of rifles.

Yes, except the fines for poaching and violations should be much higher.

No changes are necessary.

The season is good.

Because Fish and Game most of the time watch over populated areas.

It meets most of my personal expectations.

Good, long, quiet season.

It remains the most satisfying wilderness hunting experience. It's quiet and relatively free of human pressure.

I hunt for elk - depending on the weather the elk are in the rut.

The season is long enough and game is very plentiful.

Because it is during September during the elk rut. If it wasn't for elk bugling, I would not bow hunt.

Because the season is long and a person can also hunt the rifle season.

Uncrowded; I see elk almost every time I go out; very little hunting pressure.

It's a long season with plenty of game out there. It's held during the right time of the year. It's very challenging.

This was basically my first "real" year to bow hunt. As far as I know now, I'm satisfied.

I don't mind.

Because it provides me with a reason to get out in good weather.

Yes, except a late hunt may be good.

Lots of time, good numbers of game, although quality is down.

Because I enjoy getting outside while the weather is still nice and hunting is good.

It's long enough for me to hunt all the species, but we need to eliminate the dirtball hunters who don't practice!

Season and areas are appropriate.

An early season gives a chance to hunt without competition from rifle hunters.

The time of year and length of the season, and the species one can hunt.

Current numbers have not created any crowding, plenty of game.

The length of season is good. It's the right time of year. The game is abundant.

Offers me opportunity to be in the woods and hunt without adverse effects on game.

Yes, except shooting of spike bulls because they're so stupid they come right up to anything. They are very vulnerable.

I have no complaints. I am totally satisfied. The season is the best time of year to be out. There's lots of game.

Because it's fun and challenging and you got more time to hunt than with a rifle.

I see a lot of game.

I see game.

It allows archers to hunt big game before rifle hunters spook all the animals.

It is the best that it is ever going to be.

During the rut of the elk.

I think it is fair to the most amount of hunters.

Most people who hunt with archery are careful and don't destroy anything. That is mostly some just don't care.

Enjoyment of the outdoors; game is just a bonus.

Because I don't see too many other people and I enjoy getting out.

The elk are in the rut during archery season.

Opportunity to get out and study game. Game are out of range but have had plenty of sightings. It was a dry year and hard to stalk.

Because where I hunt during archery not very many people hunt there.

I enjoy the statewide opportunity to hunt a diverse number of animals for the best six weeks out of the year.

Because it is just fun to get out when it is nice weather. I've only hunted one year but it seems like many people are not educated enough and wound many animals.

Because it extends my hunting season and I am able to hunt either sex.

There seems to be lots of deer and elk in this area.

Good game numbers.

There is plenty of game and it is pretty fun.

There seems to be plenty of game around.

So far there is not much competition.

Gets you out early for game and gun season follows if nothing was gotten.

No reason not to be. It's all I have.

It's the way you hunt.

I think it has been handled well, in consideration to the hunter and the animals.

I would like to see an archery only season for bear in the spring!

The season begins early enough and is long enough to satisfy recreational needs.

Either sex; archery is before general season; less hunter congestion and competition.

Season is during elk rut; length of special seasons, 260 in particular.

We now have a good archery season, and I hope it stays this way!
I feel that the timing is perfect.

Because of the amount of game to be had and the simplicity of obtaining a license.

The length of bow season plus the option to also hunt with a rifle.

Yes, except I would like a late archery season.

Weather and animals are in their prime.

Because it is a challenge.

Nice time of year and game is plentiful.

Because of the great number of hunting areas to pick from.

I hunt only elk with a bow but can hunt with a rifle later.

I had a good time hunting.

The time and length of the season and the fact that you can hunt all species.

I used to bird hunt until the endrin scare, and now I bow hunt.

Offers hunting with challenge and without crowds.

Except for archery permits for elk in 621 and 623.

We have a long season uninterrupted by crossbows, shotgun and muzzleloader seasons, and we have the opportunity to hunt a wide variety of areas and game species.

Because I can still also hunt with a rifle.

I hunt river bottoms; see lots of deer; season is long enough; quota acceptable.

I don't do that much hunting with a bow.

The fees seem fine, and there are a lot of land owners who will allow archery hunting.

It serves my needs.

Good season dates, fair amount of game.

I am a native Montanan and I love Montana.

Season is long enough; wish there was an archery only area for sheep, goat, and moose.

Offers challenge without crowded hunting.

We can buy an archery license without attending a course!

It comes at a time when I have a break in my farming operation.

Good long period; more roads open to get to other areas to hunt.

Yes, except I would like to see a post general season archery hunt.

There are many opportunities for a varied selection of big game animals.

It generally happens during the rut for both elk and antelope.

September is a good time of year in my area for weather conditions.

The season is long and the weather is mild.

It gives me a chance to get out in the field in nice weather.

Offers a good opportunity to get out when the weather is good.

It starts at the right time, lasts long enough, and there isn't too much competition from other hunters.

The season is right in length and time.

Because we aren't burdened with a lot of regulations.

First time hunter.

The hunting is outstanding; the best game availability in the lower forty-eight states; the best area for trophy whitetail deer; ample season length.

Yes, except hunters should have to apply for all areas for either archery or rifle - not both.

Because there aren't as many hunters in the district I hunt during bow season.

Because of the time it gives me to be in nature and the time to look for trophy whitetails. Also I enjoy seeing other wildlife (coyotes, etc.) and I enjoy seeing deer so close. I hunt from a tree stand.

Lots of elk nearby.

Because of the long hunting season and more open roads, also the less hunting pressure.

Because you have the opportunity to expand your hunting time and bag either sex animals.

I enjoy the early season.

Provides ample opportunity and bag limits. It is during a good part of the year.

Big challenge.

It meets my hunting needs as is.

Conducted during elk rut.

Yes, except the people that cross over, I feel are not adding to archery only.

Good hunting opportunities.

Length lets you spend different weekends hunting different game. So far it hasn't been made to legalistic to the point of too many regulations.

I feel that the regulations are fair both to the hunter and to the game hunted.

It offers good/excellent opportunity to take a deer or bull elk.

I saw lots of game, big bucks and bulls, and had several chances for a shot.

Long seasons, good quality hunting, available number of deer (trophy quality), few other hunters.

Liberal season dates.

It is long enough to take part as fall is my busiest time for work.

Season at right time of year, price is right, either sex regulations.

Season is long enough.

Montana offers great opportunity for the serious archer.

Because it offers a great variety.

License fees, season changing, air and ground cooling time of year, and option of using bow and rifle.

Because I have lots of time to hunt.
Why not? We have the best hunting in the country.

Have ample time and places to hunt.

It is time that is never lost.

Because it is good.

Because it is exciting.

Hunting is why I live in Montana instead of a high paying job elsewhere. Archery gives me more hunting time.

Gives me a better chance to fill my tags.

Fine time of year for bow hunting.

Liberal seasons, very good hunting opportunities.

Not that many hunters.

Time of year is good. Not shooting spike bulls in rifle season.

The sport itself.

The time of year is ideal as elk are in the rut.

It gives bow hunters a fair chance to get big game before rifle hunters scare everything away.

Because it is before regular hunting season so I can go without people shooting all over.

Sometimes tampering makes things worse.

The season is well timed and long enough to insure an enjoyable hunt.

Low pressure, nice time of year, enjoyable weather, generally aesthetically pleasing.

I am content with the way things are now.

Number of hunter is much less that rifle season; it's still a challenge at best time of year - early fall.

I had several opportunities to take game and opted not to.

Either sex, either species, statewide.

No special drawing; there is a bow hunt season separate from rifle season; bow hunting gives me more of a challenge.

There is a lot of game and the laws allow for plenty of chances for a kill.

It expands my hunting opportunity; it is challenging; there is less hunter congestion and competition; nice time of year.

Certain areas have too much pressure but where I hunt it's fine.

I like the length of season, quantity and quality of game.

I wish it was earlier like September.

Appears to be adequate elk.

Good weather and time to hunt.

I enjoy it now because it is challenging and it is in the right part of the season to hunt.

I like the outdoors.

Liberal season lengths.

Long season, plenty of game.

Montana has a good variety of game, and most bow hunters are respectful of the land and game.

Less hunting pressure with archery hunting.

Lack of other hunters, weather conditions, observe more game than any other time, and it's challenging.

Because bow hunting in 380 is great!

In all hunting timing is important! As is, I choose when it's "right" and usually see only serious hunters.

Plentiful game animals.

I like getting out when it is nice and I also like hunting with a rifle.

Plenty of game.

You have a chance to get game if you only could get close enough.

Hunting pressure is not heavy; one can hunt either sex; season is at the right time.

The season gives me everything I need.

I called in many bull elk. I did not shoot at any because of no good shots available at bull. Passed several cows up.

Because there are not a lot of restrictions as in the big game regular season.

I think it is just right, I don't see very many hunters.

I feel that there isn't as many people hunting with a bow.

Pleasant time of year, game not as spooked, can be selective.

I like to mainly hunt river and creek bottom areas.

Because there are many deer and elk.

A time to go hunting other than rifle.

It is a quality hunting period uncluttered by roaring engines and loud booms.

I feel it is in the best time of the year (elk rut, warm weather), and the rules offer a greater challenge.

Access was a little easier this year.

I just started and everything is perfect.

September and October are nice before gun season but I like the archery season only places.

Because of the length of the season and numbers of elk!

Quality hunting, few crowds, generous season.

As compared to other states our system is by far the best.

Good and long season, either sex mostly, before rifle.

It seems to be organized properly and most archers seem happy.

Prior to general season with fewer people involved.

Yes, except in North Dakota you can shoot a buck with the bow and still get a buck tag with the gun if drawn.

Generally see more game during the season.

It lets you hunt many species with a bow.

It provides an excellent opportunity.

Less pressure than rifle season.

This was my first season as a serious archery hunter.

We have archery only areas and I like that. Please eliminate special drawings in those areas!

Less people, more challenging, see more game.

It appears to be biologically acceptable and it provides outdoor recreation.

I believe Montana has the best possible opportunity.

Montana bow hunting still offers quality hunting opportunities and a good number of animals to hunt despite Mr. Jensen's attempts to screw everything up.

Yes, except I don't think it should cost more to hunt with a bow than a rifle.

Aside from elk hunting in 623, I met no other archery hunters during my outings.

I just like it.

Gives a person or archer plenty of time to get their game - except the numbers are down.

Length of season allows time for scheduling vacation and decreases pressure.

There's plenty of game and areas to hunt.

Generally plenty of areas on national forest to hunt.

It's nice to be in the woods without a lot of other hunters.

Game and areas are plentiful; cost is minimal.

Lots of opportunity to hunt.

Ample seasons, plentiful game, diverse hunting conditions.

Game is plentiful and there is less hunting pressure.

It allows us to hunt before general season and during most of elk

rut.

Usually nicer weather conditions, but season should be prior to "rut".

Many, many excellent opportunities.

I like the choices of areas that one can hunt.

Yes, except I would like to see less bow hunters.

I don't see any problems with it as it stands.

Because I think the season is at the right time and is long enough.

No interference with other hunters and is a great time of the year.

It gives archers a chance before rifle season and if unsuccessful they can rifle hunt.

Yes, except there is too much posted land in 622.

Yes, except there seems to be a lot more hunter pressure.

A great place to hunt.

There isn't very much competition during archery season.

Yes, except the biggest problem bow hunters have here in Montana is with the rising number of hunters.

Because there is adequate game for hunting.

Overall it's a good opportunity for bow hunters to take big game.

Yes, except I would like to see a late season hunt for buck deer.

Hunting with special permits in congested hunting districts.

Weather, pressure, and game is not nearly so alert.

There is still some public (state) land you have access to.

The game is plentiful and all over.

I can hunt in areas that during rifle season are closed to permit only hunting.

I like the early season so people have a chance to get one in velvet.

I have only bow hunted for two years. It's challenging and new to me.

Regulations are generally uncomplicated; provides for variety and choice of animals and areas, etc.

Archery takes more skill. Need closer place to Billings.

Because so far bow hunting is not as crowded as rifle is.

There's plenty of game for everyone.

Area, animals around where I live.

Because I think it's just a matter of short time before I'm successful.

Not too many hunters; number of elk is good; laws are fair.

I believe that is has been set up right. The MBA has been involved. There will be changes as needed.

It gives me a chance for either sex elk.

Because I work hard to get closer to animals.

We saw game every day, however, we didn't harvest any animals.

We are able to hunt in an area that is for rifles only.

It is fun!

Season is before general hunting and season length is good.

We own land that is good hunting. I have access.

Ample general season, and stays open when gun season closes.

Liberal season length, no crowds, either sex hunting.

Because there's lots of big game.

The season is long enough to give a person a chance to hunt more than just two or three weekends.

There doesn't seem to be too many people hunting in my area (429) during bow season.

It is very easy to obtain access and the laws are very good, easy to follow, etc.

I enjoy watching the behavior of the animals during this season.

Easier access, less hunting pressure, wildlife more natural.

Because most things are within my satisfaction.

A quality outdoor experience, few hunters, undisturbed game.

Because it is separate from the gun season.

It is organized well and offers a good opportunity for early hunting in most places.

It is at the right time of the year for the elk rut.

Best time of the year.

In general, the dates and time are okay and only a few changes could make Montana an excellent state for bow hunters.

More chance to be in mountains without so many other hunters.

Because there seems to be a few more elk - or at least I get to see more!

I haven't hunted long but I am noticing there aren't many bucks in my area.

There is plenty of game.

It's the right length.

I like being able to hunt archery and rifle season.

Yes, except there are things that could be improved.

Long season, ample opportunity, open land, lots of game.

No changes are needed.

We have good seasons and good game populations.

I do not go often.

Weather is good, the deer plentiful, and the elk are bugling.

The hunting seasons are long enough to try to hunt different species.

Early season with many available hunting locations.

Yes, except I wish the Ruby Valley was included.

I just do it for the enjoyment of the outdoors.

Because we can go out without worry of being shot by a rifle.

I can take my time; more game is readily seen; and landowners are more permissive.

I see more game before general season starts.

Ample opportunity to hunt close to home.

It offers time to get out before the mobs of people in the general season.

I like it because of the early opening of the season and the length of the season.

The season length is about right and it provides a good recreational opportunity for sportsman and revenue for FW &P.

Offers more days to hunt and more opportunity to view wildlife.

Length of season causes lower hunting pressure.

Seems pretty good.

Fewer hunters.

I love to get out while the elk are bugling and ahead of the crowd.

I just like to be out there.

Time of season, variety of areas and game available.

Not much hunting pressure.

Provides many recreational hours.

I like the early season.

Yes, except first choice elk archery in CMR is something that needs to be worked out.

I can hunt deer, elk, and antelope in the same day.

It's a nice way to locate elk before rifle season.

Because right now there is still enough game to hunt and available land to hunt on.

Good season dates, reasonable license fees, uncomplicated

regulations. But I believe the state could support more game.

There appears to be lots of game out there and with more experience I hope to gain by it.

It is not really hard to purchase a tag and land is open to public.

Not difficult to get to the places to hunt.

I like the early season and it's fair to everyone.

It's broad enough and during elk rutting season.

It starts early in the fall.
Plenty of time, lots of game, fair weather.

In Havre area there's little hunting pressure. I would like less pressure for elk in Breaks.

It is fine except for access that is much needed in Yellowstone Valley.

Limited number of permits keep too many hunters from overrunning everything, which I like.

Reasonable regulations and fees.

Because it is the right amount of time where a person can hunt all the big game.

There are not as many hunters yet.

It's very competitive for myself and against others.

Very challenging.

There is good cover in the surrounding areas and I have access to much of the land.

Generally good numbers of game. fair access, variety of hunting terrain.

I see a lot of animals and not too many hunters.

There's more freedom during archery season (regulations). Archery seems to have very little affect on game other than maybe too many buglers; raising the price of an archery stamp might cure that. A few unserious slobs are road hunting also.

Because there's more game (you see more).

Good regulations.

Multitude of areas available to hunt, quantity of game.
Yes, except the only thing I dislike is when property owners lease their land or lock it up unless you pay. They're usually the best hunting areas and the elk don't belong to them, right?? Out of staters get the best hunting. Money talks!

Amount of days to hunt, mainly elk during rut.

At the very least, I usually get to see game animals.

It gives a person freedom to hunt "one on one" with the species.

It gives me an opportunity to be outdoors.

I think there is plenty of deer and cover.

Yes, except for elk moose hunters using firearms during elk rut.

Under my circumstances and the environmental circumstances, I think all things considered, it's as good as it will get.

You are open to hunt with a bow alone; no guns, no orange.

It's a challenge.

There are many opportunities for bow hunting for all types of game.

I've bow hunted for thirty-five years and it has become part of my life.

I think that we have enough days to bow hunt and the hunting pressure isn't too bad.

Yes, except the only change I'd like to see would be elimination of motor vehicles in the national forests.

I like being able to hunt either sex.

Low hunting pressure, good season.

Hunting early gives me a chance to really "hunt".

The time of the season, bugling, more than enough animals.

I like any hunting.

Abundant game.

Length is fine; there are plenty of animals.

It brings a greater challenge to kill something.

Excellent opportunity to observe and understand habits and patterns of animals. Also greatest feeling next to a climax when a bugled bull appears from twenty yards away.

There seems to be good numbers of animals and uncrowded areas to hunt. It is a quality experience.

I like the freedom to go almost anywhere during bow season.

It gives archers a better chance to get close to game.

Yes, except the archery fee is too high.

Good seasons, good areas, good licenses, and good information.

The areas that I hunt have very little pressure.

Less hunter congestion, good weather, early scouting for all big game animals.

It allows greater hunting opportunity.

Ideal time of year, particularly for elk.

Allows hunting at the best time of year; mild weather.

Reasonable season length.

Most areas are open and the earlier time provides better outdoor recreation time due to weather, etc.

It helps out the landowners and sportsmen.

Peace and quiet.

Good opportunities with minimal competition.

It gives every hunter a chance before the competition starts in general hunting season.

I feel that Fort Keoh is a great place because it's close to town and there are a lot of deer.

Because it is great to be out hunting when the elk are bugling.

Because it's before rifle season and during the elk rut.

I believe the season is long enough and starts at a correct time. My only exception is that with the increase of hunters over the

past five years, I've noticed a disturbance of bulls during the rut due to the use of artificial calls. I'd like them outlawed; voice only.

Long season, good time of year.

Because it is more comfortable hunting, rather than fighting frigid elements.

It's fine.

Multiple opportunities for different species.

Yes, except I would like to see a late season (after rifle).

Long season, plenty of game.

Long enough season, not many other hunters.

The season is long enough and we don't compete.

Yes, except there are too many roads (need more roads closed).

I enjoy being outdoors with the excitement of hunting. It's a well managed sport.

The way archery hunting is set up now seems to satisfy the needs of the majority of hunters.

Reasonably long season; good time of year to be afield.

Yes, except I would like to see more walk in areas.

The season is generally good. There's not as many hunters to deal with.

Montana has a very generous season with unmatched species opportunity, however, in some ways it could be improved.

Lots of opportunity close in, good animals populations, relatively few hunters.

It gives you a chance to hunt before the game is spooked by rifle fire.

It's in the right time of the year during the rut for elk.

I hunt a lot just to get out in the woods.

Because I'm basically ignorant of the facts concerning archery hunting.

It isn't cost prohibitive and allows a citizen to hunt in a sporting way one on one with the wild game.

It affords an opportunity to hunt big game before deep snow and cold set in.
Because there are many places to hunt.

I enjoy the sport.

Yes, except we need more access to state and federal lands.

It affords bow hunters a greater chance to kill an elk or deer because of the early season.

It seems to fit in well with the general season (rifle).

You have a good long season with many chances.

I like it.

The season isn't too short. I can still hunt during rifle season.

Less hunters; see more game; more challenging than rifle hunting.

I believe archers have an advantage being able to hunt areas that require a permit by rifle hunters.

It gives everyone a chance to enjoy the sport of archery.

I have time to hunt and it provides a "nice" extended season.

Very relaxing sport - no one in the woods.

Ample game, not too many hunters.

Because I can get out with a good chance of shooting at something.

Why not?

Because I love to hunt with my bow and rifle.

It provides opportunity for most people to hunt except for access to private property which in some cases is hard to find.

Long season.

Early season, not as many people out.

Lots of fun.

Plenty of wildlife.

Plenty of animals and reasonable access to them.

Because of the needed time required to harvest an animal with a bow.

I feel it is a good opportunity, and I love just going and **not** even getting anything.

Archery season is during the bugle season and there is a five antlerless deer season in area 260.

It is a good all around season for all species.

The seasons are placed at the right time of year and are the right length.

I like the seasons.

I like the long seasons and places to hunt.

Yes, except my only complaint is with hunters who take poor shots and wound animals (instead of waiting for a good clean shot).

Length of season, abundance of game, etc.

In the field without competition.

Can hunt without tripping over other hunters.
Much less pressure than general rifle season.

I have archery hunted only one year. I was satisfied with the experience.

I see a lot of game and very few hunters.

I like the early season along with the either sex requirement.

Because they don't have stupid laws (like you question #8 abc).

It was my first archery year; nothing to compare it against.

I enjoy the length of the season. Shorten gun season and lengthen bow season.

Yes, except number of hunters is starting to put on too much pressure.

I enjoy relatively long early season; see lots of game; few other hunters.

The length and time of the season provides many opportunities.

Liberal seasons, but would like to be able to take spikes (elk) with a bow.

One can do some hunting if one has and takes time.

Yes, except I wish the season was longer. (Why not end it just two days before rifle season?)

It allows us ample time to hunt and plan our hunts.

It is a little short but it is open only to compound, recurves and longbows, and I think that is good.

It gives the bow hunter a better chance of bagging game animals and is more accessible.

The challenge and the closeness to the wildlife.

Unrestricted opportunity.

Length of season and time of year.

At the present I see plenty of game and I thoroughly enjoy the season.

The length of season without competition with gun hunters.

I'm satisfied.

Ample opportunities, enough time.

Because I can hunt behind my own house and also rifle hunt.

I think it is a good program and should not be changed.

The big game harvest is not increased significantly by archers. The time frame allotted for archery is appropriate.

No complaints.

Yes, except it would be nice to have a late December season.

It's a nice time of year to hunt and the animals are generally active.

It seems to be a sufficient length.

The length of the season and the regulations are fair.

Archery season begins early so we can sharpen our skills for

general season.

Very liberal length and areas available.

Always see game.

Because you can shoot either sex deer or elk.

Doesn't appear to be as much competition during archery season.

Good hunting.

I see a lot of elk.

Pleasant experience.

There's not too many people; I see a lot of game; either sex hunting.

Because it was exciting to see the deer and elk run around.

Not very crowded; abundant supply of deer; sufficient supply of elk.

You see more game and there are a lot less people.

Not as many people hunting gives the animals a chance.

Long enough season with varying climatic conditions.

It suits me.

Long season with the freedom to choose any hunting district.

Elk are bugling.

Long season.

I like the quiet time for archery hunting. I also use it to scout for rifle season.

Long seasons, mostly open areas.

Good opportunity for outdoor recreation.

I like the either sex rules for harvest as I hunt mostly for meat.

Because you can take either sex.

The game is there, however, there seems to be more and more hunters.

It is relatively free of complex regulations that are complicating the hunt for the rifleman.

It's not overcrowded (except CMR); landowners seem more willing to let you bow hunt.

I have hunted with a bow for many years and enjoy each year.

Because I was able to get a whitetail buck the first fall I bow hunted in Montana.

Time of year, bugle season.

Very good, good access for whitetail.

Mainly because of the beauty of this state and the available wilderness!

Good game population, good weather, good season length.

Archery season is excellent for scouting. I see more game and different experiences in one season than in ten regular seasons.

Not as many inconsiderate out of state hunters as in general season.

First year hunter.

I have a problem getting time off. So this way if I can't get time in archery season, I may be able to get time off later. Real good management.

Because I can get out and away to do some sporty clean hunting.

Offers a tremendously long season.

Time of year.

Yes, except I would like to see the season extended.

I feel it is a good time of the year, and about the right length.

Plenty of opportunities and low hunter densities.

I have no outstanding dislikes.

The animal populations are fairly high in the areas where I hunt.

The freedom of hunting all game animals - deer, elk, bear, etc.

As long as cross bows aren't allowed during archery season I will be satisfied.

There's nothing wrong with the way it is now.

Hunters should decide between using a bow or a rifle for elk and deer.

Yes, I think the current system is set up as fair as possible.

Because it gives me more time to hunt.

Separate, early seasons are the only chances a bow hunter has.

Because it provides me with a challenge.

It provides the opportunities I desire.

I quit rifle hunting to get away from inconsiderate hunters.

No complaints.

I'm generally satisfied as an inexperienced bow hunter.

Season is a good length and regulations are fair.

Game is plentiful.

I like the weather during archery season and I am satisfied with the regulations.

Most landowners cooperate.

Most areas are open for bow hunting.

It gives me a longer outdoor hunting opportunity.

Reasonable season length, good game populations.

The stamp is cheap. There are a lot of deer in our district.

It's a sport I enjoy and can afford, if licenses don't get too high.

Meat supply.

The deer population is at a high point.

The weather isn't as cold; less hunters.

Regulations at this time are reasonable. Please don't add any!

Yes, except in the area I hunt they really should open up Metcalf Refuge (all areas) at once, if they want the bring down deer

population.

I see many animals of good quality, but I can't hit them.

You don't see a whole lot of people.

Long season, a lot of game, liberal regulations.

I think it is done well.

It's a convenient time of year.

Yes, except elk hunting.

The roads are open and access to land is easy.

Yes, except bear hunting.

Mostly because people don't have to worry about mechanical release bows, etc.

The season starts at a nice time of the year and I can also bow hunt during rifle season.

I enjoy it.

Yes, it's more of a challenge and proves your skill in the woods.

Time of year, less hunters.

I enjoy hunting in camoflaug and hunting when the animals aren't spooked.

I feel that there is enough room to hunt.

I'm a new archery hunter, so everything is pretty new to me.

I feel we have room for improvement but things could be worse.

Lots of elk.

Costs and length of season are appropriate for the opportunity they provide me.

I like the chance to hunt either sex animals and the chance to hunt a month or more before rifle season.

Adequate seasons and available hunting areas with game make it interesting.

Long season before the animals are scared and hard to find.

I like the ability to hunt with a bow and if you don't have a

kill to hunt also with a rifle.

Generally speaking, the time, quotas, and the different types of hunters out at this time are compatible.

I just started this year and have had no problem with what I have done.

Because of early hunting during bugling season and less people in the woods.

Like the time of year; elk are rutting.

It seems to work out well for me!

Archery hunting in Montana provides the greatest opportunity for recreation in Montana. The challenge associated with bow hunting is unmatched in any other recreational opportunity.

You have enough time to hunt and you have a jump on rifle season.

Yes, except I would like to see the season last longer.

An opportunity to get into good conditions and pursue an excellent sport.

In areas I hunt there seem to be plenty of bulls and elk in general.

Not many people, no pressure on game.

Good game in most places.

Because the game you hunt is a challenge, but it is not such a challenge that you don't have a chance to get anything.

First year to archery hunt in Montana, I've seen lots of game.

It's a nice time of the year.

I like the archery hunting because no one really hunts around here.

I see a lot more game during archery hunting than during rifle hunting.

I feel no great concern with any present archery regulations, management, or season accessibility.

I've had good luck finding the elk and deer. I haven't killed any yet.

Long season in area 260.

It allows a time before the rifle season that is a solitary and peaceful time to hunt.

Because it is at the right time of the year. It is before rifle season so all the big game are not scared.

I feel that there is plenty of opportunity to harvest any big game animal the hunter chooses.

Bowhunting takes time in order to get close and Montana seasons give you this.

It's a fair season.

Because of the length of the season and the game you see.
Because there are quite a few animals around.

The Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is doing a great job.
Season is great as it stands.

Because there aren't that many people that bow hunt.

Because it allows me an extra chance to get my elk before general season.

Yes, except I would like to see better landowner - hunter relations.

For my needs, it is fair.

I like the rut for elk.

It's a good long season, providing plenty of opportunity for the taking of game.

Hunting opportunities have been excellent.

Because we have a good season down in the river bottom undisturbed by gun hunters.

Not too many people, not too many restrictions.

Most areas are open to hunter access; less chance of game spoiling.

It works for me.

There's plenty of deer around and lots of brush to hide in.

This is my first year so I haven't had any experience to base it

on.

Early season allow more hunting time total in the fall.

It is nice to hunt in early fall before gun hunters come out.

Because it's not overcrowded and it gives you a longer hunting season.

Long enough season.

No complaints.

Because it is during the bugling season.

This was my first try.

Because I don't see anything wrong with it.

If it (the season) started earlier, it would be too warm.

Less hunters, better hunting opportunities.

Allows ample hunting time and mostly either sex hunting.

Part 2 - Yes

Nice Weather

Timing of the Season

With the season the way it is, I have plenty of opportunity to get out on weekends. (The only time I have)

Good Bowhunting Country

Love To be Alone Wonder At Will

I GET GOOD RESULTS

affords the only good opportunity to see trophy bulls.

because no one that I know complains

the weathers right

Regulations are good, nice time of year to hunt

When and how long it is open

It works in well with the time I have off each year & allows me time to hunt in conjunction with my taxidermy business.

Avail of Game

The season is of good climate, and occurs during the Elk rut the greatest time of year.

I Feel that Archery season is Fair As it stands Now Most All Hunters get in A lot of Hunting time-And Most get game

it seems fair

the season corresponds with the Rut- and is long Enough to Return if necessary To Complete Hunt

I have fun

It is very challenging right now.

Good Controls And SEASON LENGTH

Because there is a abundant amount of deer

I enjoy being outdoors, plus it gives me a chance to scout for rifle season.

Length of season is very satisfactory-

Because It gives us a chance to hunt Elk by bugeling

at a time when weather is good.

Enjoy early hunting before Rifle

I get to shoot grouse.

I am satisfied although I would like to see some special hunts where there is overpopulation

Because the Animals Don't Really understand what you are During Archery Season And it's challenging.

generous season

I enjoy listening to the elk bugle. I don't care if I kill one with a bow

Gives me a chance to get out and enjoy hunting if I have time.

provides one a chance before the orange army invades the forest
The season is during Elk rutting season.

We were used to a longer archery season, but 5 wks is plenty

I think it is stupid to hunt animals in there mating season but
it is fun.

Early enough To Try Bugling Elk

The Dept. Has seen to it, That An Archer Has every Advantage
possible.

More opportunity and less restrictions than other states.

The season is long enough. The laws are not too strict.

Those of us that know how can feel safe with the way we hunt.

I'm satisfied as long as the season is not shorten and crossbows
are illegal

Excellent numbers of animal

because you can hunt either Sex

I see much more game and the hunting pressure is not too bad like
rifle season

Its nice to be out before most hunters

Because you can kill a cow elk without a special permit.

Excellent opportunity

A Nice Long Season

Lots of Time To hunt, Lots of Places To hunt

there seem to be alot of animals around all year.

Because of the season.

ARCHERY HUNTING IS SIMPLY THE MOST ADDICTNG SPORT THERE IS.
ESPECIALLY ELK IN RUT!!

Long season

because it sharpens any skill and better understanding of the
game I hunt

I have always gotten close To getting one.

Good length of season & early enough

Have no complaints

Give's me a chance to be in field more the just general season

Nice Time of The year, plenty of Game To see & enjoy

WE HAVE ADIQUIT TIME BEFORE RIFLE SEASON TO HUNT FOR BIG GAME.

Like Bugle season with elk-

There could be some changes to make it better. Exactly what they are I am not sure what they are.

Nice Weather

BECAUSE IT'S DURING THE ELKS RUT

I can see more Game And Game is not as Spooked

No crowds-long season

Opportunity to kill a cow or calf elk for the freezer

Because it works

Because of the mass of hunting access And that there aren't that many people out.

1st YEAR HUNTER 1987

Because you have a choise at buying a licence and not drawing for it

I gET A CHANCE TO HUNT MORE OFTEN

I would like to see cow permits for the Deer Lodge Prison Ranch.

Yes, for my first year of bow-hunting game was plentiful and a good challenge.

good hunting & good access

There are not as many archery hunters as there are rifle hunters

LENGTH OF SEASON INCLUDES ELK RUTTING-EXTENDED DEER SEASON ALONG BITTERROOT & CLARKFORK RIVER

The Season encompasses the elk rut and is generous in terms of

length.

Good seasons

Do to the time period, it allows me at least 5 days of hunting.

No Rifles.

I like living in the woods during rut of Elk and the flexibility the current system offers

Gives one enough time to get out and enjoy the best part of the year.

Good time of year & Not Many Hunter game is easier to see

it allows me to hunt with bow & rifle

Because there is a lot of areas with good hunting

ITS GOOD.

Plenty of time for me on weekends

I FEEL BOW HUNTING IS VERY CHALLENGING.

It coincides w/ Elk Rut weather is nice that time of Yr

Season length is generous enough to pick convenient times and weather conditions.

Long Season. Numerous animals.

I am happy with our success opportunities, but I would like to see more mature bulls.

You See Lots of Game & Few Hunters

because it comes just at the right time of the year

because there are enough elk and not very many people bow hunt compared to rifle season.

I enjoy the time of the season

I like to be able to hunt 2 seasons

because its at the right time of the year

I AM A MARGINAL BOWHUNTER & IT GIVES ME EXTRA TIME TO HUNT BEFORE RIFLE SEASON

Enjoy either Sex hunting And like The length of The Season.
It's during a nice time of year to be outside
length of season and able to shoot either sex
There's not that many people that hunt with a bow, so theres no
reason to change anything
plenty of opportunity to fill your tags.
I would like to be able to soot spikes in branch antler areas.
It gives me a longer hunting season and more time with my father
Seems to go very well needs no change.
I enjoy it vury much
You get out of it just what you put into it
Because its still a challenge
BEING THIS WAS MY FIRST YEAR I WAS SATISFIED WITH ALL AREAS
length of season extends hunting opportunities
However a Post Rifle Season Bow Season should be added and the
late season only should allow the use of crossbows
I like it as it is because there is not as much hunting pressure
as in reg. season.
Because of the Extended hunting time
Because I don't have to drive too far to hunt.
Season dates and bag limits are fine.
IT seems to be enough
Because alot of people get game
Less Hunters-Nice Weather
I like the length and the lack of hunter congestion.
I really enjoyed being out early in the fall and seeing all the
game.
I think that either Sex is good becaus of the difficulty

But, don't like to see the increase in archy hunting license
it is easier to obtain permission to hunt on private land.
cause there was good weather and a good season
Because I like the way the Laws are set up and the amount of
hunting time you have.
Because there are enough animals taken to satisfy the public
Good Weather- More Game Closer to Roads less Hunting activity
The length of season enables me to hunt on weekends
Seems To be well managed.
Gives everyone a chance to hunt.
Good time of year, nice weather. few people, lots of game, good
hunting grounds
There is not as many out of state hunters to kill all the game.
Game numbers seem good, and overcrowding of hunters doesn't seem
to boil yet.
All right the way it is.
Still plenty challenging.
Can get out and hunt before the nuts with guns get out.
I recently learned that you have to wear hunter's orange during
bow season
Because there is plenty of game and the season is long enough!
I guess-this was my first year w/ the bow
See a lot more game in archery season as opposed to rifle season
A person has a better chance to see more elk, and getting a
trophy Bull.
Montana currently has excellent archery opportunities.
But I sense in the future the Elk breeding season will be
disturbed.
I have the opportunity to hunt with bow as well as rifle at a
later time.

More time to hunt and less competition

but Stevli Archery Area is so full of Deer, we at some point should be allowed to open hunt this place.

BECAUSE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO ALL BOW HUNTERS, NOT CATERED TO OUT OF STATORS

Its just right

long season need more rain

Am new to the sport-have formed no opinion to speak of one way or the other.

it at a good time in the year

Good Weather-Less Hunters

I feel is fair to everyone wanting to bow hunt

Its during mating season

So far it is not too badly abused that I can see.

It is fair & I see ample game

It helps get me out and hiking at a beautiful time of the year. I like Archery.

Because you can hunt early with bow & late for rifle.

the generous season

I like the time of year and the increase in opportunity and fewer hunters (relatively) and the challenge

It gives ample opportunities for success.

It gives a hunter a chance to really enjoy being in the woods without all the people

Excellent opportunity for recreation over a long span of time (reg season & post season)

Better op-to hunt & be out

Works very well

IT TAKES YOU AMPLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO SCOUT & HUNT WITH BOW, THE PRESENT SEASON ALLOWS AMPLE TIME

HUNTER POPULATIONS ARE LOW AND ANIMAL POPULATIONS HAVE BEEN GOOD
eXCEPT BOWHUNTERS SHOULD PASS SOME SORT OF COMPETENCY EXAM

I like the early season elk hunt as is.

comes at good time of year-(mild climate) long season-lets
working man get plenty of weekends. also- winter season (170)
gives more opportunity

I enjoy the Fall weather and always am thrilled when an Elk
answers even if I don't see him.

I'm a native Colo. I moved to Montana 11 years ago because of the
hunting opportunity/to study game through both seasons

A very rewarding time w/ little congestion and ample hunting
time- shorting the gun season will unfortunately bring in more
archery hunters.

IT GIVES ME AN ADDED OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS.

Fewer hunters- The length of the season is sufficient to plan a
hunt (Elk)

IT'S A NICE TIME TO HUNT, LESS HUNTERS MORE OPPORTUNITY TO STALK,
LESS WARINESS BY GAME

Right Time/ Right Length

Early time of year. Most units open.

It gives me the chance to hunt if I have the time, but if I don't
I can still hunt with my rifle.

I think we have good archery hunting, don't screw it up.

I greatly appreciate the amount of opportunity I have to archery
hunt.

I enjoy getting out and seeing Big Game even though I didn't get
anything

The length of the season is adequate.

We got our week back in 87.

I haven't killed anything yet. Really I enjoy bow hunting

Good chance to see game and not many hunters

MOST AREAS ARE OPEN TO ATV TRAVEL

DURING ELK RUT

The season is adequate.

The general herd populations are good and competition moderate.

Quality hunting experience

Because it is a challenge

I feel the current seasons are in line with the current populations and harvest by bowhunters

I hunt primarily behind my home (area 260) & the season is plenty long.

It enables non trophy hunters to shoot Cows. I'm a meat hunter

offers quality hunting

I love september and not much hunting pressure just serious hunters

I was amazed at the difficulty I had obtaining landowner permission in dist.#

Open roads-access to higher elevations needed during bow season.

LOVE THE LONG SEASON AND FEWER HUNTERS TO CONTEND WITH

Because this enables me to hunt with a bow or rifle

Get to see more game than you would in regular rifle season

season is long enough, and pressure is low.

Long seasons - Hunt Deer/Elk at same time

I am satisfied with it.

plenty of time & can hunt any species

compared to other states I have hunted, this is a paradise - except for access

Because it gives me a longer hunting season

Long enough season. Not so much pressure from out of staters.

Game not as spooky as rifle season seems to be game if look hard

enough

Nice long season gives plenty of opportunity to get out and hunt

It could be better. But, It still was good.

The quality and amount of game is good. Less hunting pressure
although thats changing

the hunting season maybe to long for both gun & archery

Just enjoy in Mont being out

BECAUSE OF THE FREEDOM TO HUNT STATEWIDE I HUNT ALOT & IN ALOT OF
DIFF. SPOTS. ALSO THE LONG SEASON. NOTE, I DIDNOTKILL ANY ANIMAL
WITH MY BOW LAST YEAR & I EASILY HUNTED 30+ DAYS.

The season is long enough for buisy hunters to find time.

Plenty of time and generally good hunting

Provided longer seasion

gaulity of the hunt

Excellent opportunity to see game

To someone born in Montana and raised in Montana theres no better
place

Generally climate is favorable excitement & privilege of bugling
Elk.

It provides quality time & opportunity

Because you have the right to hunt anywhere the rifle hunters
can.

WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT THERE'S ALOT OF PEOPLE HUNTING THAT DON'T
KNOW HOW TO USE A BOW.

Because there are many animals and the weather is nice

its before general season, which reduces the amount of hunters &
increase my opportunities

I don't see what else you could do to make it any different

BUT SEASON COULD BE LONGER. SEEMS TO BE PLENTY OF DEER

In 650 there are a lot of good hunting places with all spieces of
deer

We have a good length season, and a variety of game to hunt
I see lots of game and country
I enjoy the fall hunting take is only secondary
It give's me a chance to bugle in a trophy bull
Because I feel that it is relatively safe & A fun sport
Long season, plenty of game and it is getting crowded a bit.
I like the addded days to our season.

SUCCESSFUL BOWHUNTING REQUIRES THE TIME & SPACE IT NOW HAS.

Its beautiful and theres no pressure on the animals
Good long season for variety of conditions - a lot of game, early
season too hot for meat
Because I hunt with friends from Washington St. and from what
they've told me, their game laws on archery stink.

NO RED TAPE, LETS TRY TO KEEP IT THAT WAY

Because it offers the bowhunter a wide varity of options.
There are less people out before gun season
Exception is lack of hunters that appreciate the rights of
another hunter already established and ready in a particular
area.

It is a great sport, and Montana is a great place to be outside.
This was my 1st year hunting, with a bow I've shot many years
Competive shooting.
the weather is good, we can talk to the bulls and shooting one is
just a bonus of the hunt.

REASONABLE SEASON LENGTH, GOOD GAME MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

Excellent oport to enjoy the fall season.
lots of opportunity - little hunting pressure - game not so
spooky as rifle season
I feel the season is adequate in length and not over regulated.

Appropriate season length - little pressure in hunting area

SURE WISH WE HAD ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY ON BITT. RT. RIVER
BOTTOM

WEATHER & THRILL OF THE RUT

It represents a special time - the time to get out in the
mountains or river bottoms and be at one w/ the natural world.

It provides ample hunting opportunities.

FIRST YEAR WITH A BOW!

Because its less crowded & easier road access.

Length of season, opportunity to see game before it has been
scared by rifle shooting

There is room for improvement but generally OK.

Because season length is sufficient with either sex
opportunities.

1) Early fall is perfect weather wise 2) Very little hunting
pressure - don't see other hunters

I am seeing the animals, it's just getting the shot.

Because it is just the right length of time.

BECAUSE OF VARIETY OF HUNTING SETTINGS & SPECIES; LENGTH OF
SEASON; LOTS OF WHITETAIL IN AREA 260!!

I like peace, and freedom to hunt where I want.

But - Too many forest roads are left open (gates not locked).
Also, I have noticed an increased number of motorcycles.

Being able to hunt either sex deer & elk makes archery a
worthwhile proposition.

There is plenty of game and not too many hunters for Deer

Mostly because the season corresponds with elk bugling period and
there is not much congestion in the field while hunting.

its long enough to have an honest go at it

Good time of year and plenty of game.

Access to most area's I like to hunt.

it allows me more time in the field & I can sharpen my skills for rifle season.

I would like to see more archery only areas

I feel very fortunate to live and be able to hunt in Montana. Its great!!!

Time of year, number of hunting days & either sex in most districts

Plenty of hunting time; more areas opening to archery hunting (area 170)

because there is alot of game.

Challenging with a good chance of seeing game on all outings.

ADEQUET HUNTINGTIME AND REGULATIONS

Plentifull game animals in Montana and to me it's the most beautiful time of year to hunt or fish

seems to offer a chance for a large animal of about any type

Its the best time to hunt and the Regs. seem to be fair towards everyone.

because of the length of season in the river bottoms

EARLY SEASON, NICE CAMPING WEATHER LOW HUNTING PRESSURE, SEE MORE GAME

always see elk, & not that many hunters.

provides lots of opportunities, fun to get out before regular season

Even though I have taken only 2 deer in 30 years of hunting I really enjoy the challenge

There are few restrictions

GOOD POPULATION, ELK RUT, FAIR WEATHER

Good, long seasons. Many areas open plus many bow only.

I feel it is a long enough season & more than fair on what you can & can't shoot

it seems to be a good time of year for it.

To go archery hunting is a chance to relax and enjoy the out of door earlyer - see many animals shoot - maybe.

YES I AM PLEASE WE HAVE SUCH A VERITIY TO HUNT SO MANY PLACES

Enough total areas to get away from it all.

I believe there is good quality hunting for those willing to work at it.

Area 260 "B" tags should be either sex tags

Montana still allows for good hunting when compared with other states.

Hunting was excellent, owners of land in 170 Dist. was very nice.

IT GOOD

Its a chance to put civilization and the working world in a shoe box for a day or month

My son hunts arch. has good luck each time.

It allows me to hunt Elk in the rut and the weather is nicer.

I can scout one area and hunt at the same time before rifle season

Yes, except for some good elk hunting being clear cutted or talk of doing.

quite OK

It gives me a chance to hunt without alot of other hunters

Season is at good time of the year during Rut, length of season is good.

SEASON STARTS & RUNS THROUGH THE OPTIMUM TIME OF THE YEAR - GETTING TO BE TOO MANY PEOPLE.

for hunting earlier in the season for Buguling season

The season is long enough and it gives you an opinion to hunt both sexes

Game pop. are in good shape.

I feel that there is plenty of game, and hunters spreaded out.

I think more land owners should give permithion.

There's so many places can go.

It allows me a 6 week season prior to the rifle season when the animals are not as spooked and it coincides with the rut for elk.

Because I've never seen anouther bow hunter where I go.

Adequate hunting time

Keep the number of people limited & keep the archery drawings

Nothing should be changed

THE SEASON IS AT THE PERFECT TIME OF YEAR, AND OF ADEQUATE LENGTH.

Not too crowded - and enough game

like not competing, with all people who hunt during general season

Length of time and time of year

I get to see the animals up close even if you don't get a shot off.

I don't see the need for the gap between archery & rifle season

It is fairly uncomplicated with a lot of options.

Less hectic better access

THE STATE IS SO LARGE & SOME OF IT SO RUGGED THAT NOT EVEN THE POLITITIONS & BIOLOGISTS CAN MESS IT ALL UP!

Season coinsides with elk rut.

The season takes in the entire elk rut and there are places you can get away from other hunters.

Like long season, chance to bag varied animals on combo tag, few hunt as hard as I do

It allows opportunity to hunt with both bow & gun.

It gives you alot of time to hunt, and alot of places to go.

Because the elk are in the Rut, which improves your chance of sucess

I feel that it is alright as it is now

Because there is plenty of game around but not many mature mule deer bucks or bulls

CHALLENGING - LESS CONGESTION - NOT RESTRICTED

Generally, it bothers me that DFW & P appears to sell licenses like lottery tickets in area where game is obviously limited. Need the money more than interest in not over hunting an area?

I like Bugling elk & the quietness of the sport.

Less people than General season.

The opportunity and challenge and thrill are much appreciated, an excellent prelude to rifle season.

I enjoy being out, whether I get something or not.

Good over all. Problem - too many non-sportsmen arrow flingers. These people operate with shotgun attitudes.

Yes, long season, not too crowded, plenty of game

Adeq. timing & length of season - sufficient # animals (elk & deer) - but could increase # of big heads

For the amount of time available for the hunter to hunt you don't have to shoot at the first animal you see.

the variability of the months involved

Laws are fair as they are license fees are low & fair

Low hunter populations

There may possibly be getting too much of it.

We still have hunting with bow or rifle during rifle season

lack of hunting pressure & longer seasons

Mostly yes, but would like to see post-season for archers.

The timing of archery season is well thought out to the archers advantage

THE GAME IS HERE AND THE SEASON IS RIGHT - SO FAR

Because I can still find areas with little pressure, however, this type of country seems to be creeping away.

EITHER SEX

I got an Elk this year last one was 11 years ago (with a bow)

It covers the elk rutting season completely

Like to elk hunt during the rut.

See lots of game, quiet.

With Bow hunting I have a lot smaller % of getting my animal but the longer time to hunt compensates

first year bowhunting

There seems to be pretty good hunting for deer & elk

Archery hunting in Montana is a true chalange for the hunter & the hunted.

The season is long and except for certain areas the competition is low.

I'm satisfied with archery hunting because it works in perfect with Creek fishing.

It still is not pressured really hard by hunters and has an adequate population of Elk

This is a recreational not a subsistence hunt

It seems quite easy to attain permission

I have had great luck in the past, & the quality remains now as it was 5yrs. ago.

Good seasons, like the extended deer seasons in Nov-Dec

Because the season falls right during the rut for elk, which is the only big game animal I hunt with my bow, and where I hunt I have lots of excitment.

BECAUSE IT IS STILL ARCHERY ONLY - WITH NO BLACKPOWDER, SHOTGUN, CROSS-BOW ALLOWED.

Because of the amount of area to hunt in

It is a good exercise and challenge, but if I don't get anything I always have rifle season.

your chances are greater during the rut for Elk

The hunting is good in this area. and not very many people
either sex, long season B-tags

Length of season

BECAUSE I GET TO HUNT EARLY AS WELL AS LATE FALL

Adequate length & time for archery

The season dates are great! The length of season is appricated

Because we can hunt Elk during the rut

ITS A REASON TO BE OUT

IT IS A NICE TIME OF YEAR - AND FUN TO HUNT WHITETAILS BEFORE
THEY ARE SPOOKED

Good time of year to be out - more game seen even though few
close enough to shoot.

IF THE LAWS CAN STAY THE SAME

I think the mountains are exelent but the Metcalf refuge has some
to be disired

Adequate season & good Game populations, but access problems

THE SEASON IS GOOD AND WE CAN HUNT ALL SPECIES OF BIG GAME.

BECAUSE OF THE EXTENDED AMOUNT OF TIME & LESS HUNTING PRESSURE

Length of season, amount of game, relatively few restrictions. I
would like to see less outfitter bought land rights.

I like Bow hunting & also rifle hunt later.

Presently seems to be fair

Bow hunting in general is very satisfying. Successful or not!

BECAUSE THE SEASONS ARE LONG ENOUGH & COINCIDE WITH THE ELK
MATING SEASON

I like having the option to hunt w/ either Bow or rifle and the
long season

It's before Gen. season, It's makes for more of a sport.

Time is of, maybe starts a little early

Liberal seasons w/ generally uncrowded conditions except opening weekend.

The season is timed right and it is plenty long enough.

Season is long

EARLY SEASON HUNTING AND INCREASED HUNTING OPORTUNITIES

I gives me a chance to get my deer early in the year.

IT GETS ME OUT OF THE HOUSE BEFORE & AFTER RIFLE SEASON

5 week season, adequate game for those who choose to make the effort to go where the game is, no cross bows, no pressure to score, since there's also an adequate rifle season. Beautiful weather, good places to go, either sex hunting, low key.

it is the only season going at the time, and its during the elk rut.

Length of season

because its a long season

BUT, I WOULD LIKE THE SEASON SPLIT TOO - A TWO PART SEASON - ONE LATER AFTER BIG GAME IS OVER - FOR SNOW TRACKING AND RECOVERY-

Because it allows more time to hunt, and with the either sex it makes it much easier.

But early moose & bird hunting (with dogs) disrupts animals

Season is during nicest part of the year. it is a fairly long season

Length & time of season

The oppurtunity to harvest an animal are great.

I believe it gives you quality hunting & not as many people as gun season

A late season period for hunting rutting deer would be nice.

I think hunting in montana is perfect. I have never seen any one where I elk hunt.

I enjoy the early hunt.

PLENTY OF TIME, PLENTY OF GAME WONDERFUL TO BE OUT IN A FINE TIME

OF YEAR

Good time of year

I like the long season it gives you time and flexibility to get out and hunt.

It seem fair

GIVES ADEQUATE TIME TO HUNT IF YOU WANT

The number of animals is good and the season length and timing is good.

it's a good time to be in the mountain.

Good opportunity

BECAUSE THE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS TO STILL GET A BULL W/BOW

get out early in nice fall weather

See alot of game & low amount of people

Good time of year,

WHERE I HUNT THERE'S NOT ANY PEOPLE AND A GOOD ELK HERD

Length of season

GOOD HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES WITHOUT LARGE NUMBERS OF HUNTERS -
GOOD LENGTH OF SEASON

Because there are still plenty of places where I can hunt alone,
nobody!

BECAUSE OF GAME NUMBERS & LENGTH OF THE SEASONS

I enjoy archery season because I rarely ever see another hunter
and I see more game.

Length of season and access are both very good

ARCHERY HARVEST AND PREFERENCE SURVEY

The following comments were taken from Part II Preference and Attitude Survey, question 1 and Part III Elk Hunting, question 1.

The questions read as follows:

PART II

1. Are you generally satisfied with archery hunting in Montana as it now stands? ☐ NO ☐ YES
WHY? _____

PART III

2. Are you satisfied with archery elk hunting in Montana?
☐ NO ☐ YES
WHY? _____

The comments were grouped into 4 parts:

PART II YES
PART II NO
PART III YES
PART III NO

As with the General Comments, the comments were typed in verbatim except for some minor spelling changes. Content and grammar was not edited.

Part II - NO RESPONSES

ARE YOU GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH ARCHERY HUNTING IN MONTANA AS IT NOW STANDS? WHY?

Conflict with bird hunters, and cattle grazing on forest land during season.

Too many archers around that aren't serious; road hunters for example.

Because you have to take a test so that you can hunt with a bow. You already passed your hunter safety test and you study some of the bow hunter safety and the rifle is just as deadly or even more than a bow. But what I'm really mad about is that I have just bought a bow and I won't be able to hunt with it next year because you have to take a test. And they already started the test when I was in sports and I couldn't make it.

Too many people lose animals and it disturbs the elk breeding. Season should be in December, for snow to track.

Open north of Missouri River for elk.

I'm limited to choosing one area between 622, 623 and 631, and if no game in that area I want to hunt elsewhere.

I think that it should be more widely encouraged.

Game need to be more abundant.

I would like season to start later.

I believe there should be a late season after the rifle season is over.

Too many incompetent archers in field.

I mainly hunt in northwest Montana and feel there are not enough elk, especially bulls.

I think bowhunters should have to pass a test before a license is issued.

Need to start same time and run to first Saturday before rifle season.

Too many incompetent archers.

Access/during normal weather 401 is almost unreachable without

damage to county roads - longer season.

Should be when there is snow on the ground so not so many wounded animals escape. Also bow hunting during the elk rut is messing the elk herds up.

I would like a December or January late deer hunt for buck deer.

Too many out of state licenses.

Blue grouse and archery opening dates caused problems.

Because I wish they would just have strictly recurve bows, not compounds.

Very concerned about the loss of wounded game.

If an archery stamp is required it should allow you to at least another deer and antelope.

Because grouse season opens at the same time and people are using shotguns on big game.

Area 324 where I would hunt, has been closed for years and no one has a good reason why.

Too hot.

Would like to see more elk in northwest hunting districts.

I feel the archery season is too long.

Not enough mature bulls.

I feel that archery hunters should have to pass an accuracy test before hunting.

Because with my job I don't get a chance to hunt enough.

The license fee is restrictive because if you have a kill you can't buy a rifle tag.

Too many animals (deer) are killed during rifle season and that leaves not enough for bow hunters.

The impact of two, three and four wheeled off road vehicles has been devastating in my district.

Change in regulations for what can be hunted have made bow hunting more difficult.

Farmers don't give access to good hunting lands.

Hunting of spike in branch only area with a bow.

Season is too short; it starts too late and should open again after gun season.

It is not open long enough.

Because there are too many that do it for fun. Make people hunt with either bow or gun, not both.

I think elk should be left alone in breeding season. The season should be after main hunting season.

A person should be allowed to shoot one deer with a bow, and also with a firearm.

If elk populations are dwindling the season should obviously be shortened.

Should run up to gun season.

Would like to see the season in December so less game is lost.

Most areas poor.

Too many out of state sport hunters. Nonresident tags too cheap but ours keep going up.

Should have minimum draw weights ie. 45# deer, 60# elk. Firearms should not be in possession of archery hunters.

Deer, elk and bear are OK but antelope permit should be easier to obtain for archery.

Season starts too early - too noisy and too hot during day.

Low huntable numbers of elk and mule deer.

I don't like the drawing system along the Missouri River.

I feel you should sell a separate tag for deer archery, so you don't have to use your "A" tag and not be able to rifle hunt.

I think there should be a later season as it is usually too hot in September - (meat spoils) etc.

Not enough open hunting areas.

Hot season - (weather) short season; limited areas to hunt elk; too much pressure from agri-special interests groups.

I think they are closing down too many districts.

Crowded hunting conditions (archery elk in 410). State should limit number of hunters!

We permit to hunt 622 abd private land owners shut you off road right of ways to get to CMR.

Wrong time of year - too dry - make too much noise.

Too many misinformed bowhunters that know little or nothing about archery hunting resulting in a high escape rate that die anyway.

Should be shorter.

I wish they would make it either bow hunting or rifle hunting for deer or elk.

Too many hunters.

Season is too short and private landowners herd elk around property for private hunting only.

Like to see it extended into latter months of winter (Jan. Feb.).

Too many roads, not enough closed during season.

I feel a person should have to choose between rifle and archery hunting.

Too many kids my age that hunt and can't shoot their bows.

I would like it to go into the rutting season longer.

They are splitting up our districts in South Valley and there are not enough wardens for the hunting pressure.

Archery hunters have more access to road closures than rifle hunters.

For the most part yes, but the season should be open statewide during late season.

Because of having to forfeit applying for rifle for elk when applying in a 600 area for archery.

No deer left in our area (eastern Montana) should have fewer hunters - longer season. Loss of access on private lands.

Less animals and more people.
Don't like it.

It is too long - too early - and they should not be able to hunt with rifle.

Too many ranchers don't allow hunting.

Access to public lands held by lease holder is difficult to impossible!

Season starts and ends too early.

There needs to be a better way of selecting special tags by drawing.

Pods should be legalized.

I find problems with access. I don't see problems with roads. I see problems when sections of timber are harvested.

I enjoy hunting with the rifle also. The archery tag should allow a buck on it as well as on the "A" tag with the gun.

Very definite lack of game around Marysville area.

Need to plant more big game.

We shouldn't need to buy an extra stamp just to hunt with a bow.

Would be nice to hold a late season after rifle.

I believe many "hunters" abuse forest land with their vehicles as well as bother game repeatedly during the season. Vehicles should be banned from use away from main roads.

The season could be longer and antlerless (without drawing) purchases could be more.

There should be a season to hunt rutting whitetails.

There should be more "archery areas only" to accomodate the increase in archery hunters.

Grouse hunters (and I do not deny their rights) shooting often spooks animals I have spent hours stalking.

Too many people.

Too many unexperienced bow hunters.

Would be nice to have longer season.

Logging practices.

Wish there was more access to public lands.

I feel there should also be a late season for bowhunting.

We hunt too long and there are too many incompetent archers afield.

I think they ought to shorten the season to four weeks because they're chased too much.

Getting to be more inexperienced archers in the field which increase wounding.

Because upland bird season opens the same time.

Too many hunters.

I would like to see the law changed concerning baiting bears and salt licks.

I think on antelope; it should be over the counter for antelope and then if you wanted you could put in for a permit with a gun also.

Because chicken season opens the same day.

There are too many hunters that can't shoot or have the ability to track wounded game.

Seasons are too short.

Season is the wrong time of the year.

There are too many "amatuer" bowhunters. Need to decrease numbers by instituting "choose your weapon" (rifle or bow) requirement.

290 should be open to cow elk all season.

Too many hunters are not skilled enough to use a bow and as a result much game is wasted. Archery hunters should meet an acceptable level of proficiency before being issued a permit.

Would like to use a cross bow.

I think you should hunt with a bow or rifle. Archery hunters have gone downhill. I own a sports shop and I hear it all.

The season needs to be longer.

Should make it branch antlered during rifle so we'd have more

bulls for archery.

Need more bow areas.

We should be able to hunt 313 in the special hunt for elk.

I'm against drawing for districts for archery.

Too many "road hunters" on private land making "roads" surrounding CMR.

More and more land owners are closing land account of "weekend warriors".

I would like to see the season open sooner and close October 1. In some areas, archery hunters, because of date and weather, may have an undesirable degree of access.

Bird season opens at the same time.

Too much pressure.

Too many people driving all over the country in vehicles.

Too many concentrated in an area at one time.

Because the season should be longer.

Not long enough.

The season needs to be longer or opened during the ruttings some.

More and more access is being locked up. Prime areas are being logged or planning to be logged.

I can no longer hunt the Breaks without sacrificing possible elk permit for rifle season.

Should have a late season.

I'd like to see archery hunting only on Bowdoin where there is no hunting.

Should shorten hunting season to four weeks, because of the fact they get chased around too much.

Open more districts.

I don't understand why archers have to pay \$6.00 for a stamp when black powder hunters don't.

I think it could be longer, but other than that, yes it's fine.

I think archer's should be able to bag spike bull elk.
Too many unskilled undedicated "archers" in the field. Too many elk are wounded and/or lost.

Getting to be too many bowhunters; too many uneducated and unethical bowhunters.

Need to reopen hunting district #324 to archery hunting (planned in 1988).

There are getting to be too many hunters out.

There is no accuracy test. People are in the field who can't hit a paper plate at twenty yards. They wound elk!

There is no bowhunter education required. Too many off road vehicles.

I think it should be longer.

Longer season needed, due to the later rut times.

Too many archery elk hunters.

Because the season is not long enough.

Elk don't bugle like they used to. Too many people hunting and bugling.

The system should be either rifle or bow, not both.

Too many people hunting without any experience.

I feel it would be more fair is a person could get a special archery permit like 622 and also a chance for cow drawings for rifle.

In most cases I'm satisfied but in the CMR the deer population is down due to the deer hunting with rifles. I would like to see CMR archery only areas for a while.

Would like to have an early (before September) mule deer season and some more late season areas for whitetail deer and elk (cows).

Too many bulls taken during bugle season.

People that are bad shots take bad shots and wound game. They're not qualified to hunt group six inches at thirty yards minimum.

They should not allow spike bulls. They are too easy to bugle in

and kill.

Grouse season opens same time.

Would like a later season hunt.

Too many motorized places.

Close more gates! Install more gates!

Lengthen seasons in all units to December 31 (open up after rifle again). Make extra tags for archers only instead of on the same tag as rifle. More incentive to harvest an animal with a bow. Now there is no real incentive because you can shoot one with your rifle if you don't fill your tag during archery season. I moved from another state that had separate tags for archery and rifle. Hunting here on the same tag did not get me excited about archery season.

Could start about the 15th of September instead of around Labor Day - too long.

I believe that hunters should only be able to hunt one season, ie. a person who hunts with a bow should only be allowed to hunt with a bow.

Too many herd bulls are killed.

The season is too long. I also know of too many hits on elk that weren't followed.

Too many outfitters.

I think the season should stay open until opening day of rifle season. And the trophy bull elk are thin, and the cow - bull ratio.

Should be started a week later and run a week later.

Should have a "B" tag for antelope.

Would like to see some past gun season hunts in our area to hunt whitetail deer.

There are too many people that are poaching game.

Lack of game.

I would like to see a post season.

Too many motorcycles and all terrain vehicles. And you should either hunt bow or gun season, not both!

In some of the districts the hunters are managed, not the game.

Would like to see it open earlier and maybe have special late elk season.

Need a way to ride motorbike for transportation; too much wilderness.

Because I have seen very few trophy class animals.

Enforcement in 455 is non-existent; poaching has skyrocketed.

Does not seem to be near as many deer as there have been.

I'm upset that so few ranchers and farmers will allow people to hunt. I checked sixty-one different places and only seven would let me on.

You can't hunt where you want without a permit.

Access problems severely restrict use of much prime hunting habitat.

Too many uneducated hunters in the field and not the trophy animals that there were ten years ago.

I'm new to Montana resident hunting and archery hunting but I favor having an archery education course and/or general big game hunters and conservation courses mandatory for hunters.

Need season or areas open after general season.

I think season should close the same time but open a few weeks earlier.

I think bow hunters should have another deer type "A" tag good only during archery season.

Too many hunters and not enough elk.

There are too many "nonserious" archers.

There is beginning to be too many nonavid bowhunters.

Must compete with rifle permit drawing as to which I will put in for.

Would like to see the season extended through whitetail rut.

The season is too short and a late season bow hunt would be nice.

Hunters shouldn't be able to hunt anything in a district they don't have a permit for.

No, I wish there was a late season after gun season.

Too many people and not enough game. Need wardens to control the hunting legally.

It is early and far too warm to be hunting elk.

Late area hunting too far from home.

Bird and bow season open at same time. Gunners scare game when bow hunting.

Special preference for bear such as no quota. Archers don't kill that many.

Too much Forest Service land is not accessible because of private controls of access.

Fish and Game says one thing and does another when talking to Local Association opinions.

Would like to see more branch antler rifle season to increase bull-cow ratio.

Because the weather during archery season; it's always way too hot.

Too many hunters have contaminated various districts - too many "rookies".

Too many out of state hunters.

No deer in eastern Montana, loss of access to private land, too many bowhunters for elk in Missouri Breaks.

Too many hunters - too little game. I would like to see a post bow season.

We should have a post rifle season for deer archery hunting.

Need to extend archery - start again after regular rifle season.

Hunters should be permitted to bow hunt or rifle hunt but not both. Think of the hunters and pressure, not your financial take!

We have to pay too much.

Too much state land is closed off by private land!

Late hunts restricted from favorite areas.

Not many places to hunt. All land is posted.

I would like to see crossbows added.

I can't understand why 324 is closed for archery hunting and then turn around and let 600 or more permits for cows during rifle season.

We are denied the right to hunt with a rifle if we bag game with the bow!

Should be a bow hunter or rifle hunter; should not hunt with both.

Too many closed roads.

Don't put so many restrictions on roads and all.

Why do archery hunters have to pay for an archery stamp and black powder hunters don't? They share the same season.

Black powder hunters should also have a bugle hunt.

Too many fair weather hunters during first two weeks.

Too many firearms used in archery season.

Allowing late season hunts; cows abort too many calves; example: District 212.

Not able to obtain access on private lands due to bad reputation for archer's.

Not long enough! Too many ATV's running off road and cross country.

Not enough areas to hunt that are archery only.

Archery should be after general gun season.

Too many bowhunters, not enough game.

I should be allowed to fill my tag during bow season for deer and again during gun season.

It coincides with hunting of birds and the shotguns stir up the big game.

One should have to choose between bow and rifle and not hunt with

both.

Too many new archers hunting with no knowledge.

Too many hunters that are poor hunters, too many wounded animals.

Because it opens on Sunday instead of Saturday.

There are too many people running around the woods who don't give a care about their environment.

Should end before rifle season.

Too much pressure in hard hunted areas, and too few mature bull elk and deer.

It should be at end of season when there's snow.

Because of heat and chance of meat spoilage - would like a late hunt after the gun season.

A lot of the river bottom lands are posted and aren't huntable.

If cow tag is drawn - you have to hunt cows only.

Could be better, could be worse.

Too many road hunters get the game excited with 22 caliber bows.

I would like to see a season in January or February.

Because of the private landowners won't let you use their property to get to your favorite spot.

I think there's too many people messing with the elk during the rut.

The season is too short.

Because you can only hunt spike bulls in 380 during archery season.

Need a longer season.

Would like a post season for elk.

There isn't hardly any place to hunt anymore.

There are too many "slob" bowhunters who have no idea what they are doing and launch arrows at any distance!

The closing of the upper Ruby and some other hunting districts.

When you use your tag on archery, you are done hunting that species but yet you have to buy the extra tag.

Need more archery only areas.

Disturbs bull elk at crucial time for breeding (last calf crop).

I don't think I'll even buy an archery license next year. I'm tired of all the Forest Service gates.
Too many ATV's in the hills.

Grouse season should be started later say the first Sunday in October.

Montana should have a pre-season ahead of firearms hunting.

I use to hunt 380 until it went to permit only for branch antlered elk. While I approve of the permit system, I don't believe it should apply to archery hunting.

Special permit should not be required.

I see no need for special permits.

I see no purpose for a special permit.

Dry conditions, high loss of wounded game, too many inept people at shooting and tracking game.

No access to state leased land by ranchers for cattle grazing, although they can use it hunting, recreation etc.

Closing areas to 4x4 machines; I cannot walk four mile up hill to a area before hunting.

The season should start a little earlier even if there is a brake from bow to gun.

Because there were no wardens on patrol in South Valley. Also archers couldn't hunt in both districts 631 and 632.

Compound bows should not be allowed.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks imposes experimental management restrictions on archers rather than on gun hunters, because they meet with less disapproval (smaller group), for example, the recent change in elk archery regulations on north side of Fort Peck. The very nature of this questionnaire indicates that we are about to be experimented on again! If you want to try some new management techniques subject the entire hunting population to them, rather than wishy-washing around!

Longer season.

Open more districts for elk and more permits depending on the weather.

Because the animals are too far away.

Too expensive.

Too many road closures, vehicles don't scare game, man does.

It should be later in the year after regular season.

Number of archers bugling elk has increased to an intolerable level.

I would like to see a late hunt for elk.

Most of the land is closed.

I feel increased hunting pressure from out of county and out of state hunters has greatly decreased the hunting opportunities for locals.

Need a test to prove competence with a bow.

It's obvious the bull population has been decreasing.

I would like to see season two weeks longer.

Limited access to prime elk areas.

I would like to see longer seasons.

Too many old established roads are being locked up and access for the average hunter is dwindling rapidly.

Because of all the prime hunting areas being closed off.

Many people closed the season for the first week - seems to scare them too much.

Too many people abusing the archery season have an either archery or gun license.

In my opinion, Fish and Game allowed severe over harvesting of the deer herd three years ago in the Glendive area.

I would like to see the deer/elk archery season opened again after Thanksgiving for a month.

Too many hunt with no practice; this results is a lot of wounded

animals. Testing for accuracy before licensing should be mandatory.

Should require all bow hunters to pass a bow shooting proficiency test, too many wounded animals now.

Too many hunters in the woods anymore.

I think they should close it and start a black powder hunt in the place of archery - too much game is lost with a bow.

A large amount of game is on private land and they don't let you hunt, but they complain in the midst of winter of large populations eating their feed.

The weather is generally too hot.

It should be extended one more week at its end, and shortened one week from the start.

The restrictions placed on elk hunting in prime hunting areas.

Too much private land for refuge.

Too many wounded animals because too many people don't know how to use there bow.

Season should be longer.

The late season area 260 should be larger, say all of Ravalli Co.

The prison hunting area lacks sufficient parking space. No communication between Game hunters and officials.

Not enough deer.

There should be archery only areas for bear hunting.

Seasons are longer in other states. Separate antelope, deer and bird hunting.

A "successful" bowhunter should not be denied rifle season for the same species.

Shortseason, and some areas along rivers closest to town should be archery only for the full season.

Too much game is crippled or lost from inexperienced hunters not taking good shots.

It should run a little later in the season and rifle season should run a little longer.

I would like to see more private land open for archery hunting.

The weather has been to nice to bring animals down.

I would like to see a late rut season in a few more areas.

Too many inexperienced hunters are flooding the woods.

Need more archery only areas and longer seasons, at least two weeks longer.

Number of branch antlered bull elk seems to be declining.

Lack of respect for wildlife and other by hunters of all types.

I believe it should start later and last until weekend before rifle season.

Because of restrictions in district 380!

I believe there should be an either/or situation established.

I would like to have the season one week longer.

In hunting district 380, all antlered bulls should be available to harvest as well as all branched districts (spikes).

The season is not long enough and a lot of the farmers will not let you on their land because of what other people have done in the past.

Too many out of state hunters.

The four point mule deer rule is a crock of baloney.

It's been too dry.

This probably concerns the U.S. Forest Service more than your department but I would like to air my opinion to you anyway. During the last few seasons I have seen increased abuse of our public lands by all-terrain vehicles (3 wheelers, 4 wheelers etc.). I think more and better enforced restrictions should be placed on them while in use on public lands during all big game seasons. I feel part of the solution to this problem is to close access roads earlier than October 15th. The U.S.F.S.'s present policy is to close these roads on October 15 for the general big game rifle season. I believe if we closed them for archery season also, our big game populations would prosper and it would make access for both rifle and bow hunters more fair. As it is now, people take these vehicles on these roads during archery season and just harass the game more than seriously hunting them. It just makes more difficult conditions for those

of us serious about archery and rifle hunting. Others I have talked to feel the same way. Thank you for letting me voice my opinion and I do feel these types of surveys, if put to use, will benefit us all.

No snow so wounded animals are hard to track; should be a later season.

Each hunter for each big game species should have to choose archery or rifle or muzzle loader.

In the Bitterroot Valley there is too little public land where the deer are, and little game at higher altitudes.

I think it makes the game wild for riflemen and should be at the same time.

Prohibits applying for special drawing for rifle season.

I think Montana should become (either/or) bow or rifle, not both.

The season starts too soon.

Too many poor shots in the woods; should have to "qualify" to hunt.

Because there are restrictions on bow hunting in district 324.

Because we have to buy two licenses to bow hunt.

Starts too early.

They let too many logging companies clear cut too much.

I would like to see improved access to forest land.

We need bigger bucks. They don't get a chance to mature.

I feel that the archery stamp is extra charge for hunting with a bow.

The herds are steadily decreasing in size; we need to build them up.

We have ample opportunity now, for deer; not so for elk.

Too much private posted land.

I would prefer a longer season to allow more options in reducing conflicts with work scheduling.

There's getting to be too many people out that are notdedicated. They are giving the sport a bad name.

I would like to see an archery season for bear along the Beartooths.

Season starts too early - too hot out to hunt.

Fish and Game has let too many animals be killed (4-5 deer, 3 antelope). You're stupid.

I don't understand why I have to buy an archery permit and then have to use my A-tag when I kill a deer. You need a separate archery tag for each type of animal.

Antelope archery regulations have no biological basis to prohibit anyone bow hunting anywhere in Montana.

It is too warm for most of the season.

I would like to see bow hunting season extend into the rifle season giving bow hunters the choice to hunt with bows.

No, I wish there was a late season after gun season.

Season too long, elk pushed too hard (archery plus rifle).

Should be extended.

Bow hunter pay an additional fee without the right to take additional game.

I don't understand the six dollar archery fee. You should need one for a gun to.

Too many people hunting that don't know what they are doing with archery gear; more stringent requirements on getting archery license.

There should be state resident hunting only, no out of staters.

I don't see why a guy should have to buy an archery stamp.

Should be later when we might have snow like North Dakota does.

Area 623 is a permit only area for elk, but unregulated for deer. This creates a problem of a party of five archers having only one common elk tag between them, thus defeating the permit regulation.

I oppose permit hunting for elk which gives preference to guides/outfitters and out of state hunters.

Prime hunting areas either are closed to hunting or you must pay to hunt.

Too many bow hunters who are really gun hunters out bird hunting and carrying their bow along in case something runs across the road.! Disruptive to bow hunters.

Too many posted signs.

Montana needs a late season bow hunt for elk.

Because you should be able to kill one deer in rifle season too.

Opens too late, should open earlier and close earlier.

Shorten season.

Not enough big game in certain areas.

The elk population seems to be declining.

Bow season should follow rifle season because too many animals are being wounded and left to die because of a lack of snow for tracking.

Need more availability to lands.

There are so many road closures and closed areas it is getting hard for any success.

Seasons are too short. Late season archery (residents only) should be workable, too.

Too many ill-prepared hunters are allowed to hunt. Snow would reduce amount of animals lost.

I don't see as many trophy bulls compared to years past.

Archery hunting should have a party permit for elk, it would stop illegal hunters and be safer for everybody.

Need to go party hunting so you have someone to hunt with for safety.

Too much pressure from the nonserious hunter; many who only use archery as a method to reckon areas for gun hunting.

Too many out of state people hunting.

The bow hunting in 380 was hard enough without the restrictions.

Too limited of hunting areas due to private property.

It could be one week longer.

Not enough adult males and too many females. People including myself won't waste my tag on females!

Need more seasons, more bow only areas, less congestion.

Keep out - out of state hunters.

I think you should be able to take a deer and not use your A tag.

I don't like the way Fish and Game set up the permit only areas in the Breaks (621 and 623).

I'd like it if the season opened sooner.

Not anymore! Damn slob hunters on ATV's that ignore and tear up trails.

Getting to be too many people, too many logging roads, too much asked up ground.

The season needs to be longer.

Because there is getting to be too many bow hunters.

I would like to be able to shoot spikes. They are a nice a "trophy" as a raghorn.

There is too much wounding of big game by immature bow hunters, in staters and out of staters. Also it's been getting pretty crowded the last four or five years.

Because bird hunting is open too soon after bow season.

Singled out (locally) for either/or hunting.

Should have longer season.

I believe there are too many inexperienced hunters.

Because of too many hunters.

Because there is too little professionalism and lack of quality hunters.

Computer errors in 1987 drawings of elk season.

All the good hunting is leased out to outfitters.

Too many bow hunters.

Too many out of state hunters.

Number of hunters is way up. Many newcomers and poor bow

hunters, many crossover slob hunters from rifle ranks.

There should be a drawing for a post season hunt.

Would like to retrieve animals with a vehicle where closed.

I don't think hunting during the breeding season helps our future hunting.

Because of the permit hunting on the north side.

Too many out of state hunters allowed to hunt.

Upland game birds season should open up later than archery season.

National forest if not national pasture (get the damn cattle out of the woods).

Antelope permits are in favor of rifle hunters relative to extra permits for doe and fawn.

Access too limited - becoming rich man's sport.

Too many unqualified hunters wandering around.

Need a longer season.

Because there aren't enough larger bucks.

I believe we need more four point or better areas.

Seismic activity by helicopters during archery season.

There are too many people out during the season which do not know anything about it.

Too long of a season.

Not enough land open.

Most bowhunter are willing to work together in an area and are not too concerned about there being too many hunters. I think "the more the better." The Breaks are big and there's plenty of elk. However, I think you should have a five year moratorium on the gun season here. Turn the CMR into a primitive weapon's area only. Extend bow season through the general season and give the existing number of gun permits to hunters using black powder. And while this is in effect hunters would not be required to wear the orange. Open a few more trails to disperse the camps but eliminate ATV's, motorcycles, and low flying aircraft. Once again ranchers should not be restricted or cutback on cattle in the Breaks, but they should not fly low to look for them. In

general the Breaks could be better managed, 1) by having more on site personnel (possibly deputies), 2) unrestricted bow hunting, 3) a little more access, 4) less ATV's, motorcycles, and aircraft, 5) more restriction on outfitters (who put on a big show). But the best thing would be making it a "primitive weapons only area." I also think you should have a ten horse power limit on the river, portion to let's say C.K. Creek. Don't make me a law breaker.

All areas should be branch antlered bull only, protect the spikes.

I would gladly give up two weeks of bow season for two weeks of late season for either sex.

Since you pay a fee for permit I think it should have a separate deer tag.

Because archers should not have to buy an additional license. Also, I want an archery season after gun season.

Why be penalized six dollars for hunting with a bow? Why not make rifle and archery even rates.

There seems to be too little time.

My area had helicopters in it during the time I hunted.

I would like to see a choose your season bow or rifle. This would help keep some of the less serious archers from disturbing elk in the rut.

I feel the archery hunter is over charged and charged unfairly.

Too many bow hunters.

We need more archery and less rifle seasons. We need bigger mule deer.

I support either or season, either rifle or archery.

No, there are too many out of state licenses.

Too many areas are closed to drawing only.

I feel 8A part II is ok if you go for primitive weapons (bow and flint lock rifles) or rifle.

1) We can't hunt deer in units 631, 632 etc., unless you have a special elk permit; 2) why is an archery stamp required?

Too many bird hunters have no respect for our sport. I would

open archery two weeks before bird season.

Lack of accessible land.

I would like to also bow hunt for at least two weeks after rifle season is closed.

There should also be a late season hunt open for archery.

Too much discrimination against bow hunters by Game and Fish Department.

Not the district hunting in 621, 622, and 623.

Understanding hunting is a big business. I feel we should allow the first and second week of the season to resident hunters, then open it to out of state hunters.

Too many hunters.

Would like area 324 open again.

It might be better if it was a little longer.

Too many people in the woods who don't know how to shoot their bow, wounding a lot of elk.

Females should not be killed.

Getting to be too many districts closed to archery hunters. Regulating people or animals?

Would like to see archery season lengthened.

Need longer season.

Poor access and in my opinion very low deer and elk populations.

Because all the Fish and Game does it to collect money. I do not see any put back in the eastern part of the state.

I feel you should be able to harvest a deer with archery and rifle, if possible.

The FWP is more concerned with selling nonresident licenses than managing game herds in eastern Montana, consequently no deer!

Too many unexperienced archers wounding animals.

The main herd of elk in 293 stayed on private land that was on a hunter pay basis.

I would like to see - if you bow hunt you can't rifle hunt and vice versa.

I like archery, but there's too many guns in the woods during archery.

They should have closed 622, 631, and 632 for elk on a permit only.

We need a later hunt to start two weeks after gun is over.

Rifle hunters always take precedence over archery hunters.

Grouse season is at the same time! Start grouse season later!

Too many people that do not know what they are doing are taking up archery. They do not have dedication to learn skill properly. Animals are being wounded unnecessarily.

We need an either/or season. Either hunt with a bow or with a rifle, not both.

Too many archers.

Some of the districts are only open for bulls only.

It should be split so that we can have some snow - less game lost.

Need more archery only deer (whitetail) areas.

Archers always take a back seat to rifle hunters.

There are too many bow hunters.

I feel the rut (elk) is being disturbed by the large number of archery hunters. (Propose) Either hunt archery or hunt gun, not both.

Too much time allowed.

No, too many big bull elk are being killed in most areas by relatively the same guides and hunters.

Must keep access to hunting lands, and more habitat.

Archery hunters and special permit holders in same area don't mix.

Nonresidents should get reduced fee on license costs due to lower success rates (\$450 for elk).

The game wardens are too few and too far between.

I would like to see the week before rifle season left open for archery.

As with rifle hunters gaining access, is becoming more difficult and expensive.

I feel the season should start earlier.

It is too dry and there are a lot of places open that should be closed to let animals regain the land.

Not many districts left in 400 even for rifle hunting.

Elk populations are low.

Bird hunters should not be in the woods at the same time.

Season should run longer.

Don't open on Labor Day weekend anymore.

The Breaks should not be a drawing, there is no biological reason for it.

Should have more late seasons.

Would like a late season hunt in the 400 unit (deer).

Can't hunt whitetails in the rut. The season is over during prime time.

Season should be one week earlier. Some areas should be archery only to increase big game.

I believe it should be at least two weeks longer.

Because landowners don't let people hunt in prime areas as much.

Too many out of staters.

I feel you should either hunt with a bow or rifle, either/or.

Not long enough season.

I think that the season should be a week longer.

It's getting crowded in most areas I hunt deer.

Too many animals being lost (especially mature bulls) to inexperienced bow hunters.

More archery only areas; I support the "big open" concept.

There should not be a break before rifle season.

The season is too early for rut. Best meat is July.

I feel there is too much concurrent pressure on elk. I am for an either/or (rifle/archery) regulation.

Hunters should have to pass a test so there is less wounded game.

Can shoot elk either with bow or rifle, should choose one.

Don't like it opening on a holiday weekend.

There's too many slob hunters who call themselves bow hunters just to hunt five extra weeks.

There is so little space one can hunt for game - most is closed off.

Archery season is too liberal, too many archers, too many wounded animals!

Too many areas closed.

Should be either bow or gun, not both.

I can't see landowners charging to hunt!

I think there should be two different licenses for archery and gun. You should be able to take one animal on each tag.

I can't put in for a rifle permit. The season is too early.

All areas should be open to either sex, including 380.

Too much private land being closed because of out of state hunters.

Should be more late season hunts.

Too many nonresidents.

Rifle hunters always take precedence over archery hunters.

I feel that most archers do not limit themselves to killing shots and as a result many animals are wounded and lost.

I would like to see an opportunity to harvest a deer (especially whitetail) both rifle and bow; or see extended season after rifle for bow.

Fish and Game is only concerned with selling licenses, not wildlife management.

Would like to see archery sheep, moose, goat tags, etc. Possibly late hunts with a bow.

We can't gun hunt if we kill with a bow.

I don't understand why I should have to buy an archery stamp. As a result, the state appears to be discouraging archery hunting. Other than that I'm satisfied.

Not enough access to big game (too much private land around Forest Service land).

Would like it earlier so there is more daylight for after work hunts.

Need more game.

1) Not enough enforcement of the law. 2) Turkey hunter started shooting opening day fifty feet from my stand, no deer came out after that.

Not enough elk.

Would like to see some more archery only areas! Make bear hunting in archery season for archery only, no guns!

Access in some areas is too easy and reflects on quality of the hunts.

In both archery and rifle season there is too much "road" hunting.

No out of state hunters (keep them out)!

Elk bow hunters harass the bulls at the time of year they should be allowed to breed.

We need more road restrictions. There are too many slob and unethical bow hunters afield.

Would like a later hunt.

I would like to be able to kill a doe or buck in bow season without losing use of "A tag" for gun season other than in district 260.

I believe elk hunting shouldn't be possible because they are too hard to kill and it bothers their breeding season.

There are not enough bull elk seen.

There are too few trophy bull elk.

I believe archery hunting opportunities should be increased at the expense of rifle hunting.

Because there are too many out of state licenses being drawn.

Does not open early enough for spring bear.

Need more late seasons; hunting around river areas are open but just try to get permission.

Too many hunters can't shoot accurately.

You should have to choose between either bow or rifle season.

Not enough animals in area.

Too many nonserious hunters.

Not enough elk.

Too many people with bows who have to little skill and respect for animals and land.

I feel that shotgun birdhunting spooks the animals to make it harder.

Why can't we have a post season hunt?

Season needs more time. Bow hunting is the hardest way to hunt; very few hunters get a kill.

I wish the season was longer.

Prefer that the hunter make a decision to hunt either bow or rifle, not both.

We need a bigger herd population and more trophy animals.

Not enough trophy animals.

Not enough big elk.

Big game population is inadequate for amount of area.

I have heard about many wounded animals. Need some sort of competency test prior to licensing.

The season is not long enough.

There are too many nonqualified people hunting with bows.

Would like to see a deer tag for archery only and still be able to keep your rifle "A" tag.

I would like hunting limited to hunt only with firearms or bow for any one season.

I think regulations should be the same for archery and rifle seasons.

Because the logging activity in our area interferes with my hunting.

Too many people hunting without bow hunting experience.

Elk populations seem to be decreasing while hunting pressure (through greater numbers) is increasing.

There is opportunity without effecting the wildlife resource. We need to improve the bow hunting opportunity through late season hunts and archery only moose, sheep and goat.

Loss of habitat.

Too many hunters; not enough roadless areas to accomodate the number of hunters.

Too many beginning archers buy bows and enter the forest with little or no practice.

The trophy elk population is low, however, deer/antelope is excellent.

I believe archers are impacting trophy elk more than is appreciated or taken into account.

Interference by rifle hunters is scaring game.

Season could go until rifle opens.

Should be more late season archery hunts.

I feel we should have one antlerless deer "B" tag of either species for all District 1 (archery only).

I would like to see some late season hunts for mule deer.

Too many road hunters for the amount of big bulls in my area.

Would like to see more archery specific opportunities, i.e. longer season, archery only tags, etc.

Because I would like to hunt some area closed in the Ruby range.

There are too many hunters in the area I hunt.

I feel too much land is restricted by persons leasing lands in national forest areas and state lands.

I find it hard to get elk to answer in area.

More archery hunting only areas.

I think you should hunt archery "or" rifle, not both.

There are too many poachers using bows illegally, otherwise yes.

I would like to see it open two weeks earlier and have a required safety and target test.

Should be permit only. We do not need ten thousand foot hunters in the CMR the first weekend.

I think it would be better in December.

Would be better in December.

I have to apply for a tag for my favorite area, yet I can't apply for special rifle.

In most areas I'm satisfied but in the CMR deer populations are way down due to overhunting with rifles. I would like to see CMR archery only at least for a while.

We need an extra buck tag for 260 district.

Areas are becoming inaccessible.

It should be longer and there should be more places to hunt.

I would like to see roads closed for archery season as well as gun season.

The elk are disturbed at least as much as gun season would.

Not long enough.

More people archery hunting has degraded the experience compared to previous years.

Too many outfitters are getting licenses.

Too many unqualified archers.

Too many bow hunters.

I would like to see it pushed back two weeks, wait two weeks, and then start rifle season.

Season should start about two weeks later, and rifle season should start two weeks later.

I think there is no reason to kill doe deer (mule deer).

Season is too long; interrupts the breeding cycle of the mature bull.

Longer post season hunt after the regular season.

Too many people who just buy a permit to goof around, they make it crowded.

Too much private land and unable to hunt antlered deer (whitetail) on B tag.

I think that more elk should be in Montana, for more chance of getting one.

Too many incompetent bow hunters.

Hunters should have to choose between archery or rifle season.

I would like to see more areas where you have to take branched bulls and let spikes go.

Closed area restricting hunting for crippled and handicapped.

Lack of wildlife.

Too many hunters afield.

Because there are a lot of bow hunters in the Bitterroot that think they own the place.

I feel that too many animals are wounded and lost by bow hunters.

Not as many bulls as usual.

I would like to see the state require the licensed hunter to choose either bow or rifle hunting - a forced choice.

Too many permit only areas on the CMR Refuge.

Not enough elk.

I would like to see six inches of snow on the ground before archery season opens.

Too many hunters, fewer large bulls.

Too much state and club interference for financial and private hunting.

I dislike packing out the head for the evidence of sex.

The season is about a week too long and there are too many people not competent with a bow hunting!

Fewer big bulls left; too long of a season.

Hunter numbers are too many for bull population to handle.

Lots of hunters; bull elk (branched) are becoming scarce.

Should have a late season, (winter) archery season.

This season there was a very definite decrease in number of game animals in contrast to past years.

Shorten archery season with black powder season at end.
Too few trophy animals.

Season starts too early.

Can't harvest forked horn (two point) in Bitterroots. Can't harvest spike elk.

There is hunting competition in many districts.

Should have late season hunting instead of early.

I think every bow hunter should go through some kind of training to be qualified as a bow hunter, or have an age limit that they must be before they can bow hunt. Maybe this would stop some of the rotten shots made by amateurs and young people.

Too many archers who are not serious hunters.

I believe there are too many people archery hunting that don't belong in the hills.

There should be more road closures during the archery season to limit the use of the ATV's because they put unnecessary pressure on the game, elk in particular.

Because of private landowners not giving permission to hunt in archery only areas.

Limit out of state hunters.

Posted land - work with landowners.

Too much private land; Montana leased land should be open.

Paying the extra for archery stamp irks me when the deer tag is paid for and used. Then I don't have a tag for rifle season.

Should have either archery tag or rifle not both.

I would really like to see more elk.

Too many big bulls are mortally wounded but not retrieved with a bow.

I think Montana could have an archery deer tag and also a rifle tag like a lot of other states.

Everything needs to be moved two week farther into the year.

Too much pressure on herd bulls; too much wounded game.

Archery season hurts bull elk.

I'd like to see a special drawing for does and no doe season during rifle season.

There's too many people who pick up a bow and go without practice, therefore, wounded animals.

I would like to see a special archery only sheep, moose and goat season. Also would like to be able to use archery tag and rifle tag.

Decrease number of out of state hunters.

Season is too long, where compound bows are used.

I would like to see some December hunts for mule deer.

During first part of archery season too many animals get lost due to no snow.

Because more and more roads are being closed leaving the areas open to horse hunters only.

Seasons are too long; too many people; no hunting when tracking is better.

I believe in only one chance for game license; either gun or bow, not both to hunt for big game.

Require all bow hunters to pass a bow hunters education course.

Too many people hunting with little or no knowledge about archery hunting and how to do it right.

The deer and elk populations are decreasing rapidly so people bow hunting or rifle hunting should only be allowed to shoot only one animal and should learn how to track.

Too many hunters.

Too many outfitters wanting to charge big money for deer they don't own anyway.

There are too many archery hunters.

Season is too hot and not being able to drive to pick up kill, it could spoil by the time it's packed out.

I believe areas 630, 631 and 632 should be combined for special elk.

Too many nonarchers hunt with bows.

Permit drawing at Fort Peck should have stayed the way it was before.

Too many animals are wounded that get away. We need better hunter awareness.

I feel the season is too long. Shorten the archery season and maybe have a post season hunt.

I think the archery hunter should be able to hunt anywhere in the state, not where permits are allowed.

I think that there are too many big bulls shot during bugling.

I think we should get the district we put in for first or second choice.

Too many uneducated bow hunters.

Too much logging and destroying cover.

There are too many nonserious bow hunters hunting.

USFS is allowed to do major construction during hunting months as in South Fork road project.

Too many hunters, people from northwest Montana, are hunting in

southwest Montana.

Season is too early, too dry and hot for stalking and camo. gear.

The season could be shortened.

Two weeks between archery and rifle season.

I feel too many hunters that bow hunt are disturbing the elk's mating season; should restrict hunting to later date in season.

There are too many unskilled archers hunting. A one eyed quadreplegic can kill game with a rifle, but bow hunters must be skilled, and many are not!!!

Compound bows tend to wound and pass clean through and most people don't know how to track because it's too dry.

I like to bow hunt, but I think hunting bull elk during the rut interferes with their breeding habits.

Archery is either sex; hunt is during bulls' bugle time; all the roads are left open.

Too many hunters.

Too many hunter and not enough elk.

Time of year; I feel it's hard on the elk herds. I would like it moved to a week after general season.

Because some areas are closed to bow hunters and they are good hunting spots.

Early archery ruins the early rifle bugle season; should be opened at same time.

Increased popularity; need to charge more for archery fees.

Not enough trophy elk available.

I would like a late season December 1 to January 1.

I feel that you should either be able to bow hunt or rifle hunt, not both.

An archery hunter should receive a "B" tag either sex deer with purchase of an archery stamp; B tag is for archery only statewide.

Why not more late season deer hunts with a bow? (December, January).

Double season before and after rifle season. Limited.

Bird season opens, which increases activity.

Too many people have started archery hunting. Should hunt with bow or rifle.

Give less rifle permits and more archery permits.

Because there seems to be less elk.

Because the Clark Fork River bottom has a lot of poaching.

Because the lack of animals in the north fork and the south fork of the Flathead River.

I would like to see an archery season after the rifle season as well.

Too many wounded animals and too many people hunting, especially during the rut.

Nothing has ever been done to help the archer. It has been a do as you please no information on vital areas, practice areas and no general information. Nothing has been done to preserve habitat for wildlife.

There is too much land that cannot be hunted where there is high animal concentrations.

Bird gun hunting and archery should not open at the same time.

I would like a late season hunt for elk after general season.

I think people should hunt with rifle or bow, not both.

Archery hunters should have to qualify on a test course before receiving a license.

Too many road closures.

Too much pressure from out of state hunters through a high number of outfitters in this area (121).

Increased hunting pressure by nonserious bow hunters.

Too many hunters take bad shots that result in wounded animals; educational course should be required.

Should be issued a tag for either sex, either species with bow stamp. Also season should be opened after general season.

Season isn't long enough.

Lack of access to national forest; fee hunting; orange fence posts.

The antelope district is not enough - put 430 in the 800's!

Landowners in 170 are protesting rifle law.

Too many people.

"Quality" of bow hunter has decreased.

Too much posted land.

Too many areas are being closed to drawings only.

I like a season after gun season.

I feel that more land should be opened.

More private land should be opened.

They bother my cattle even on private land. It's too early in the fall.

Too many people taking it up.

I feel it should be shorter to give the elk a chance.

Too many elk hunters.

I think the season should last longer.

We need more archery areas set aside for bow hunters.

Not able to apply for late elk hunts when you apply for archery permit 621-05.

Either archery or rifle but not both.

I'm against mechanical bows - compound, cam, and cross bow.

We used to have extended seasons. Why not more now?

Should have archery hunting before the bird hunting starts.

Too much pressure allowed when the elk are supposed to be breeding.

Never seems long enough.

Too many beginners wounding deer.

The season could be extended by allowing three weeks of hunting in December.

Too long.

I don't feel that bow hunting is used to its full potential as a game management tool.

Too many dilettante archers.

It eliminates too many of the larger breeding bulls.

It should be one week longer and rifle season should start one week later.

Bird season starts at the same time, and in high altitudes where deer and elk summer bird hunters are alerting big game to hunters.

The Ruby 324 was closed.

Difficult to get into private lands along river bottoms.

Cannot obtain permission to hunt on private lands.

Too many nonserious bowhunters.

I think inexperienced and excited hunters are wounding too many elk.

The government and state still close off too many roadways for getting deeper into the mountains.

There should be an open tag for antelope.

I want to archery hunt sheep, moose, and goats during an archery season without orange.

Nonresidents should not be allowed to bow hunt! And no wood cutting should be allowed.

Hunting clubs like the bow club in Malta get ranchers to allow them exclusive rights to early season hunts on BLM land they lease.

I would like to see a longer season.

Not enough bulls; need to protect spikes!

Too many temporary archers; we need an either/or season.

Off road four wheel drives are everywhere.

You should have to show you are capable of using a bow and pick bow or rifle for elk (like Alaska).

Too much interference with upland game bird hunters.

I would like to see testing of archers to stop Friday before season buying of bows.

There is a considerable lack of mature adult bulls (insufficient calf crop).

Because I don't think there are many deer left to hunt.

Choose to hunt either rifle or bow.

My father and I are not always able to get elk tags in 632. There should be a party drawing. Because it puts the run on game when gun season starts. It should be cut off two weeks earlier, two weeks before general season.

An archer should be allowed to take an additional deer for the money spent on the archery stamp.

I would like to see a late whitetail either sex hunt the last two weeks in December.

Bird hunting starts at same time.

The horse hunter has the advantage with road closures.

Too many archery hunters are disturbing elk by using ATV's to access elk herds.

Should outlaw planes for spotting game.

Start earlier - mid August.

Access problems.

At the Missouri Breaks (Chas. Russell) we should be free to hunt both sides of the river.

Season is too long.

Working out of town too long, work for BN.

There should be extra deer available to bow hunter - not to be used in the general season.

I believe archers need training before getting to hunt (archery, hunter safety).

Permits; if archery is going to have drawing then it should be separate from rifle drawing. Not using first choice should be three rifle and three bow.

If a person buys a tag to hunt big game it should be only for archery or rifle only; shouldn't be able to hunt both seasons. If they just hunt one of the other then it would cut down on the hunter population of archery and rifle.

Too many people hunting with rifles during season.

Too few animals.

I would like to see the middle of October part set back until after general season ends.

I think more roads should be closed.

Because I think if you hunt archery, you shouldn't hunt rifle.

I feel that since we pay an extra fee we should be allowed an extra deer.

Gun season is open for does during archery seasons; management is not creative enough.

Bird hunting interferes; shooting shot guns.

The season starts a week early. It's too hot and a holiday.

I think elk need more undisturbed time between archery and rifle.

Less deer.

The weather is too hot. I would prefer archery season after rifle season.

I would like a two week post season hunt at the end of December.

I hunt to feed my family. I think you should be able to shoot spike bulls and deer no matter how many points.

Season could be longer and there could be more areas for archery only.

Too many elk (bulls) being killed during rut.

Because rifle and bow season should be at the same time.

I don't believe in the extra money for the archery stamp. Let

the gun hunter pay extra for the luxury of his long distance shooting.

Because you closed areas 621 and 623 to permits only, tripling pressure in area 410.

There should be a late season after rifle season.

I feel there is a real need to reduce archery pressure during the elk rut - management for trophy elk.

Deer season is too short, considering the whitetail overpopulation in this area.

Grouse and bear season starts at the same time.

The orange paint that the Fish and Game has ruled as being no hunting areas has allowed ranchers, farmers, and anyone to use it. And has made it difficult to find out what land is really open to hunting and what orange paint has falsely been put there.

Too many hunters, idiots that should stay home. Let's choose between bow and rifle, one only.

Computer drawing in Helena didn't work!

No, too many logging roads.

There are getting to be more and more archery hunters that don't know what they are doing. I think they need to have a course to pass.

Too many hunters.

Need to hunt either bow or rifle, not both.

Too many out of state people roaming around, not knowing what they are doing!

I feel that there are far too many animals wounded and lost.

Because I have found too many dead animals.

All archery hunting should be limited to horseback or on foot! Ban four wheelers.

I feel archery hunters should be able to kill branch antlered bulls in 380.

Because the rifle season for bears is on at the same time. I consider this unsafe.

I would like to see a competency test before license issuing.

Season starts too early in September.

I feel it should run some in December also!

Some rifle seasons start while archery is still going.

I believe archery hunting season should be shortened for elk due to increased number of elk wounded and lost. There are too few trophy animals.

Should have a season in the month of December (either sex).

Landowner cooperation in special hunt areas lacks coordination.

Should be either/or not both archery and rifle.

Permits shouldn't exempt compound bows.

No, too many pickup archery hunters, rifle hunters that practice for less than two weeks.

An additional week would be good.

All areas should be open for archery.

Open all areas for bow hunting.

My only complaint is that I wish my B tag could be used during bow season.

I don't feel we should be able to hunt archery and general rifle season.

Too many hunters, too many lost animals.

You should allow an either sex deer extra if an archery tag is purchased.

I think we should have some more late season hunts.

Mixed feelings - access on private lands would possibly help.

I believe hunters should be required to choose bow or rifle - not allowed both.

I would like to see season open earlier.

It's not long enough.

Because of fee hunting on private land.

In certain districts a deer hunter should be allowed to kill deer by both archery and rifle hunting.

I would like to see the season shortened by one week and a two week post rifle hunt in January.

The season is too early. It needs to have an early season and also a late season hunt.

Because there are too many out of state hunters allowed to hunt.

Too many regulations.

Too many bird hunters at the same time.

I would like the hunting season in February.

Deer not populated enough.

Not enough big bulls.

Need longer seasons. I misunderstood the regulations for hunting elk south of Malta.

Permits at CMR.

The growing restrictions on bulls, starting in 380. An archer should be able to shoot any bull.

Too many wounded animals from young and poor hunters.

I would like to see a post season (late) hunt. Quite a few bow hunters need a proficiency test.

Because bow hunting some people won't let you hunt because they say too much game gets away wounded.

I would like to see it be a longer season.

It has gotten out of hand.

Season is too long. Too many professional hunters are killing too many big bulls and disrupting the breeding.

Too many out of state hunters; too much publicity; too many elk wounded and never retrieved.

Because I could stand to kill a few more.

A later season would enable hunting during preferred weather conditions.

There needs to be a late season - December or January; other states do.

Need more permit type hunting.

Hunting season is too early and lasts too long.

Elk are extremely scattered and either bulls are scarce or wary due to frequent hunter bugling.

The lands I hunt are slowly changing to roads, etc.

Too many roads and trails open to motorcycles!

You should be allowed to hunt on state ground and school sections.

Increased hunter pressure as popularity of sport increases.

Should emphasize quality more than quantity of hunters - should have only one choice: 1) bow or 2) rifle.

It's too early to track with no snow.

Too many small areas.

Given current technology and hunting pressure, season should be shortened.

It should be after general season. You would not lose near as many wounded animals. People lose as much game as they find during summer.

Units like 324 remain closed to archery hunting, this concentrates hunters in remaining units.

Not enough "post rifle season" archery hunts.
Too many hunters and all terrain vehicles.

Too many regulations - fee's too high.

Too short of a hunting season and could not get enough time off.

Lack of game management, particularly elk bull harvest.

I would like to archery hunt during gun season in "archery only" areas.

Because of no access to 284 archery only because of private land.

Need late depredation hunts.

Need more specific archery areas and seasons.

I would like to put in for the special rifle permit in the Missouri Breaks, if I didn't get the permit then I could bow hunt.

The natural environment is being clear cut toomuch in forest areas.

There doesn't seem to be as many big bulls and bucks as there used to be. There are too many archery hunters.

We need more access to hunting areas by motor vehicles to retrieve game.

Because of the use of calls; it hurts calf numbers bad.

Need larger quota on deer separate to gun season.

There are too few outstanding trophy quality animals. There are no archery only areas for moose, sheep and goat.

Restrictions are similar to rifle hunting; they are too complicated and too restrictive.

There are too many cattle in the national forest.

Season is too long and too early in the year.

PART 2 - NO

BOW TAGS & GUN TAGS SHOULD BE SEPERATE INCREASE F&G HUNTERS COULD GET 2 DEER.

NEED MORE ARCHERY ONLY AREAS

To many non-qualified archery hunters

Not enough Elk

There is Too many archers out that don'tknow what there doing with no experience

To much logging, destroying all the habbitate.

I FEEL THE SEASON SHOULD BE HELD AFTER BIG GAME SEASON, USING SNOW FOR TRACKING.

Too many inexperienced bowhunters, are giving the sport a bad name.

It would be preferable to have grouse season start later
Would like to be able to hunt Branch Bulls in 380
need late season after general rifle season
Season To Long opens To soon
Start of Bow Season is to warm would like to see it moved Back
about 2 weeks
I don't think you should need an archery stamp also!!
would like the season open after big game rifle season as well
I would like to see a Bow Hunting only or rifle Hunting only
season
To many posted land restrictions
Season is too short
I think there should be a longer season because people that work
don't get enough of a chance
Would like season to open earlier
Seasons to short
Lack of Trophy Animals
The Season's so short
I would like to see a late season archery hunt-(archery only)
I think they should raise the price of a bow stamp.
Archery hunters should be able to shoot at least 2 bucks.
There is getting to be too many archery hunters
it should be moved Too Two weeks Later in The season
to many first time hunters
not enough people are really hunting they are hoping to luck out
I would like to See at the End of Rifle Season. So we would have
Tracking Snow
Should not have Archery season during Elk Mating Season

Too Many Wounded Deer

THE SEASON IS USUALLY TOO DRY TO REASONABLY GET INTO IT AREA

The season is too early

Need more opportunity for late season hunting (Dec-Jan)

To many people out hunting To much hunting pressure.

I would like to have a couple weeks to hunt after regular season

Would like to see more quality bull elk.

would prefer to hunt Rutting Bucks in Archery only areas closer to Kalispell

Some bowhunters do not maintain a level of competency needed to assure kills.

I would like the archery hunters to only have to buy the same licenses as gun hunters and get rid of the extra stamp.

MOOSE HUNTERS

If You Kill a Deer with a bow you can't with a gun

IT should be two weeks before General season and two weeks after

you can't shoot a branch antler elk unless have a special permit

Difficult to get access in prime whitetail habitat (river bottoms)

It would be nice if there were more open land

Game Doesn't come when called.

TOO MANY POOR ARCHERY SHOTS-TOO LONG A SEASON-& TOO MANY ROADS LEFT OPEN-(CLOSE ROADS SAME AS IN GUN SEASON)

Too many compound bow hunters.

very rarely do we get to hunt in snow for the general season and the deer ruts are much later in the year

Should have either sex B tag for whitetails again

Too many unpracticed bow hunters

"Bird" season opens during archery, gun shots caused me to miss shot @ 4 point while in tree stand.

I think an archery tag for deer should be separate from tag for gun season like North Dakota has it.

can't hunt area's 631 or 632 for deer without a Elk tag

To many people not knowing what they are doing, wounding to many animals

should bow hunt or rifle hunt

Doesn't seem to be enough antlered deer in area 447. Theirs less antlers every year.

WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE LATE SEASON ARCHERY HUNTS

I feel it is too early in the year

Would like to see longer season.

I think their should be a post season

Too damn many hunters, to many motorbikes-season too short-

Season is too long

Season could open later in year to allow hunting during rut.

You USE UP your "A" Tag if you kill big game under the Archery season-& cannot hunt under the gun season then.

Too Crowded

Low NO. of Big Bulls High NO. of Archery huntings

I don't think Fall Bear with Gun should be open during archery season

Day's being to hot spoils meat archery season should be after rifle season

not enough big bulls

DATES, SHOULD START EARLIER END 1 MO. BEFORE REG. SEASON SO IT DOESN'T AFFECT ELK BREEDING HABITS.

I believe too many elk wounded - particularly large bulls - season too long

The season ends to soon. extend opening day of rifle season. Till

Nov.1.

Should be later in Sep. because of hot weather - I do not like to see my game spoiled or sour.

Few people tag anything but trophy size animals but shoot at everything they see

there's too much logging activity during the elk rut, which displaces them and makes it much harder to locate day to day

ARCHERY HUNTERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE A DEER WITH THE ARCHERY STAMP. 3 YRS. AGO 5 WERE LEGAL FOR RIFEL HUNTERS.

there are too many restrictions on the govt. land I hunt on

DON'T LIKE SPIKE BULLS LEFT OUT OF ARCHERY SEASONS IN 300 DISTRICTS - PUTS MORE PRESSURE ON BRANCH ANTLERED BULLS

It should start 1 week later than it does at this time

Archery hunting, like all hunting in Montana is losing out to the almighty buck (dollar).

Season is too long. 5+ weeks of archery & 6+ weeks of rifle is raising hell with the bulls

I'd rather see it after the general season.

I think Bow season should be after rifle, to take pressure off rutting bulls

In area 215 while rifle hunting I found 7 game trackers (these are slow to deteriorate and can wrap around animal legs, including livestock, I think this monofilament should be banned I like archery myself but lets keep it clean

Deer hunting yes - elk hunting too many animals wounded by idiots.

No consideration for mating bulls

TOO MANY CLOSED ROADS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY ACCESS.

THERE SHOULD BE NO ANTERLESS KILLING! & MAYBE 4PT. OR BETTER

I live in an area that allows either sex gun hunting for the entire season because of too many deer yet won't allow an archery deer & a gun deer like many states

The seasons are too long, and the trophy possibilities are fairly low, particularly for elk.

Most of the elk are young bulls (spikes & 2 points

Too many people are bowhunting (and rifle hunting)

Bird season opens the same day-

As archery hunters have to pay extra, they should be allowed to harvest during archery season ~~and~~during gun season

SEASON IS DURING HOT WEATHER - WOULD LIKE TO SEE Split SEASON, before & AFTER rifle SEASON

Archery is ruining rifle season also crossbows should be legal

WOULD LIKE TO SEE A LATE ARCHERY SEASON AFTER THE GENERAL GUN SEASON

Elk hunting area open all year with elk in only a small part of it.

Not enough Elk

Too much hunting pressure KILLING off too many animals

To much vehicel hunting Some archery hunting with snow for tracking

it should be you hunt with archery or rifle only not both seasons that way only the serious archer would buy a archery stamp

I believe there should be a longer season. - start earlier.

I feel archery season is taking too many mature bulls - we are seeing too many barren cows - herds of 10 to 18 cows - no bulls & only 3 or 4 calves.

I feel the combination of the long season & great number of hunters disrupt the breeding to much

The season is to long and starts to early for the weather conditions.

WE NEED A LATE SEASON DECEMBER - JANUARY HUNT.

It should be split with 2 weeks in Oct & 2-3 weeks in Dec

Montana needs a late season.

should be able to buy seperate tags for doe deer & antelope in certain areas

LEGALIZE CROSS-BOWS SO MY WIFE CAN HUNT TOO!

WE NEED TO TEACH MORE HUNTING ETHICS.

I think separate deer tags for archery and rifle season should be issued.

HUNTER CONGESTION NO DEER SEASON DURING RUT

I believe our habitat could maintain more mule deer population west of the mountains 101 102....

I would like to see elk herds expanded. something worked out with landowner's along Flathead River late deer season

Because they have Grouse hunting at the same time.

Areas along the Missouri Breaks are on Permit system, therefore you can only hunt 1 area, not allowing you to cross the lake or river by boat to alternative areas. Also taking away rifle permit privileges.

if I kill a deer in archery season then I don't hunt in rifle season

season could be shortened a week or two before general season.

State needs to educate hunters in archery safety with minimum qualifications

I feel you should have to make a choice whether you use a gun or a bow.

There needs to be areas or islands of habitat of "no hunting at all" that rotate for big game species to thrive.

I think there should be a post season after rifle season

BECAUSE OF NON-SERIOUS BOWHUNTERS GIVING BOWHUNTING A BAD NAME BECAUSE OF WOUNDED GAME OR BAD PRACTICES.

Too few trophy animals on public land. Land abuse by 3 & 4 wheelers.

Too many nonserious hunters

It's becoming too crowded - either or like other states around us.

Too many nonprepared archers not enough trophy bulls or animals.

Lack of Elk & lack of game protectors in regards to firearm hunters during archery season - locals & out of state hunters, in

these local area's 120-121-122.

To many forest service roads - no peace. whitetail deer to small-stunted growth & inbred to only dog size, sizes.

There should be a late season Dec-31, You should be able to take an animal with bow and rifle, not just either/or.

Too many unexperienced goofs out for kicks.

Season should start later and again in December, Turkey should be included

You should issue a sepearte tag for Deer & Elk, Deer mostly, so an "A" tag wouldn't have to be used if a doe is taken

WE NEED A LATE SEASON AFTER RIFLE

OUR NEIGHBOR STATE N.D. GIVES OUT TAG FOR ARCHERS ALONE, PLUS THEY GET A RIFLE TAG. ALSO WE HAVE FAR MORE DEER THAN THEY DO WOULD LIKE TO SEE A EXTRA TWO WEEK SEASON AFTER RIFLE SEASON

I wish it would take place in cooler weather.

Should start later in Sept. Usually too hot.

To many animals are wounded & get away. There is alot of resentment to bowhunters for this. I would like to see bowhunting moved to after general season when there is tracking snow.

I wish there was a couple of archery only areas in the fortune trego area other than that it is good.

I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE LATE SEASON ARCHERY HUNTS, AND ALL AREAS OPEN TO RIFLE ALSO TO BOW- SUCH AS THE RUBY (GRAVELLY RANGE) & THE ANTONE PEAKS (SNOWCREST RANGE)

Although the season is good I feel it should be after the general season and for cows only.

Archery season should be moved to after the gun season- Dec. & Jan.

I'd like to hunt later in Jan. and February for white tails in riverbottom.

I think montana should have an eather, or, season I don't think most of the archery hunters are "serious" because they can hunt with the rifle also.

Bow hunters are penalzid by extra tag & no rifle season if successful

Archery season & general season should be one or the other

TO MANY NONSERIOUS ARCHERS, NEEDS TO BE EITHER OR SEASON

Wish we only hunt with bow or gun not both

I would like to see hunters limited to either the archery or rifle season but not both.

I would like more late hunts for Elk & deer Jan. or Feb.

The increase in Bow hunters has it's effects - need to adopt an either or with Rifle & Bow with Elk & Deer.

Too many unqualified people are allowed to hunt

I feel it should be archery gun or muzzle loader by species "either or"

To wide open with few restritions

You should only be allowed to hunt with a gun ora Bow. Not Both.

To many archers in field - (The season is fine but to many new bowhunters)

No bonus for archery - can only harvest one of each species with rifle & bow

Because of the people who take vehicles where they shouldn't.

If a road is marked closed NOBODY should be behind the closer in a vehicle

Too many hunters - sometimes difficult to get away from others

Because the Bull elk are A amininal

Request more access to hunting areas to motorized bikes.

Would like a longer archery season. Maybe added on after gun season

Forest Service is building too many roads & making too many clear-cuts.

I feel we need more managment on big game

With archery stamps & special permits it's more expensive and still sometimes under controlled

Mainly because archery should be primitive, and there are too many ATV's allowed in the montains

Elk should be hunted during the regular season; not bothered during rut; too many wounded

SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO HUNT ARCHERY & RIFLE. SHOULD BE ONE ONLY.

i WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ARCHERY SEASON OPEN A WEEK EARLIER THAN THE GENERAL BLACK BEAR SEASON . I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE A LATE ARCHERY SEASON IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE STATE, EVEN IF IT WAS BY PERMIT ONLY!

Not enough game

To long of season opens to early

RESTRICTION OF PUBLIC LANDS BY PRIVATE LAND OWNERS NOT ALLOWING PASSAGE TO GET TO PUBLIC LANDS.

I feel a person should be able to shoot a deer & elk with bow and with rifle.

I BELEAVE THAT THE HUNTER SHOUD EATHER CHOOSE TO BOW HUNT OR RIFLE HUNT NOT BOTH.

I would like to see all licenses before the start of the season (bow & rifle) attempt to weed out the non-serious hunters

Too many archery hunters are not ethically equipped for the hunt.

BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO EXPERIANCE ARE ALLOWED TO HUNT

To many week end bow hunters I prefer an either or season

BEAR RIFLE SEASON & "RIFLE" UPLAND BIRD OCCURS SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH ARCHERY SEASON.

There are too many "shooters" & not enough hunters. They are a detriment to the sport.

There are many people out bugling elk. Bugle more people than elk.

Need competency test

Season is long enough but to many unskilled novice hunters wounding game

should be open late in season when snow on ground for tracking and more areas should be archery only during rifle season

There are incompetent archers afield and landowners are skeptical of the sport 'till they understand it. Landowners need to be able to recognise bad hunters before they do their damage.

there are too many unexperienced Bow Hunters out there, shooting arrows. From moving 4 by 4's that I have seen. This should not be allowed.

TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO AREN'T SERIOUS HUNTERS; INTERFERENCE FROM ANTI-HUNTERS SCARING GAME WITH HANDGUNS

To many poor archers and resulting wounded animals

No because of the draw used in Missouri River Break

to many archery hunters afield that arn't very serious

Because, there should be no charge for a bow stamp. And as all license they keep going up in price.

I think you should be able to bait the animals to treestand location.

Because to many elk & deer are wonded

Season too long descriminates against Rifle hunters

treaspass laws, it is often impossible to find owners

To many restrictions I feel the hunter shall kill a buck and a doe

The cost of the stamp in addition to the tag.

season to short

To many people in the field

I DON'T SEE WHY WE HAVE TO BUY A STAMP, I DON'T HAVE TO FOR MY RIFLE.

Three Reasons: Onewhy charge bow hunters \$6 dollars more because they like archery instead of rifle hunts

Two The archery season should be lengthened Exp. in District 260 where big game kill is low.

Three Elk populations should be increased and one District should be set up for Archery hunting Elk only! no rifles.

starts the same day as grouse season

Too many people hunt on dry ground & can't track what the hit,

not enough experience

Request upland game bird season with fire arms to open a week later

It is hard to hunt with a bow when moose season is also going in with a rifle.

Cost to much & the season should be at least a week longer

People should pass tests showing there capable of using a bow properly and efficiently

Not enough land owners willing to allow citizens to hunt their land

TOO SHORT OF SEASON

To many hunters

Part III - YES RESPONSES

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH ARCHERY ELK HUNTING IN MONTANA? WHY?

I am satisfied with season length and regulations.

Spotting lots of elk.

Everything else is not as pressured.

During archery there are few hunters, and game is out more.

Long season, uncrowded conditions, much area to choose from.

Lots of opportunity.

Good population, lots of opportunity.

It is during rutting season for bulls so you may call them in close.

No problem.

I've never taken an elk but I've been amongst them while they were unaware of my presence and these memories are among my favorite since I started hunting.

Abundance of animals - most areas are either sex.

The elk are there and the hunters are not.

The area I mostly hunt elk in seem to have a growing population.

Lots of elk to chase around.

Except for drawing in areas 621, 622 and 623.

I think some of our grouse hunters are out shooting elk and deer and then sticking arrows in the kill!

Challenge, sound of elk bugling, amount of day I can hunt.

Because it is a challenge.

Ample opportunity exists for the serious, dedicated archer.

Can hunt both sexes.

It's far better and more wild than other parts of the country.

Elk and deer are killed by hunting closer ranges and more stalking.

Not too many people get elk. They like to live too, give elk a break.

I saw a lot of elk this year.

Elk are in high numbers and there is plenty of land to hunt them on.

Fair amount of elk and seasons are fairly long.

The season is just the right length.

I think we have a great resource for archery hunters. I don't think we're creating a stress on the resource.

Not so many hunters but there are some so called archers that don't care.

Because there is not as many hunters as during rifle season.

It is fun, well managed, and a beautiful place to hunt.

Length of season, good supply of elk.

Elk are more available in archery season.

A lot of elk.

The south Breaks general hunting for elk was good.

I still have quality hunting and reasonable access to huntable land. Trophy animals exist.

Very satisfied.

Because it works.

Seem to be plenty of elk where I hunt.

There are many good opportunities for good elk hunting in Montana.

Enough elk to hunt and one gets to hear the bugling. Good time to camp.

Openness of opportunity.

I always see plenty of game.

Season is very generous and either sex in most units.

Good weather, long season.

The weather is good and competition is low.

I like the added opportunity to hunt.

There is less pressure on the elk and thus a better chance of harvesting one.

It's a good time of year to see elk.

Opportunity is there if you're persistent, hunting pressure seems balanced.

Because the season is during the rut.

I can bugle in a lot of elk.

See many elk - have never killed one with a bow.

Good population.

Appreciate long season and ability to try for either sex.

Length of seasons, areas to hunt, different species I can hunt.

I can still find a place to hunt without traffic.

Good elk numbers, beautiful country.

I can see the possibility of success in the future.

The hunt is timed right for the rut.

I've been archery hunting for about eight years and I like thing the way they are.

Ability to hunt during rut, availability of elk, limited number of hunters, length of season.

There is just enough game for the perfect competition.

Seems well managed.

Season falls just right.

Season length.

The season coincides with mating season.

Good season length. Do not like having to apply for special license to archery hunt the northe side of Fort Peck. Provides a satisfying hunting experience.

See elk quite often.

I've only elk hunted in the Breaks, but it's good.

You can hunt in all areas for elk.

Month long season, during rut.

I can hunt areas that I can't hunt during rifle season.

The hunter to elk pressure isn't very much, the season is at the best time possible.

The herd are on the increase and I like the branch antler rule.

Lots of tracks, elk in area.

Good sport.

Gives me a chance to hunt trophy bulls in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area.

We have a season separate from the gun season which makes it enjoyable to get out often.

We can hunt either elk sex, also I like the permit area in the Fort Peck Breaks.

Because I was into elk on every hunt I went on; no kill but very satisfied.

It's a real challenge.

It's not crowded and it's during the rut.

There are many more opportunities to actually see elk, whether you get a shot or not!
There are plenty elk around.

I have no complaints. I just enjoy it.

Because we usually see a bunch of both species.

It lets you hunt any district almost, and it is either sex hunting.

Good elk population in central Montana.

Because during this time fo the year It's easier to sneak up on them.

Good elk populations.

I just feel the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks are doing a great job.

Because it's such a challenge and a few people get lucky.

The chance to hunt is available if the time and money are available.

I had good success in getting bulls to answer my calls.

In the areas I hunt the elk populations are low enough that "everybody and their dog" stay away.

Long season, hunt during rut.

Because I know where to go to see and call them in. I like it.

Gives a lot of opportunity to hunters.

I feel the program is fine.

Fair amount of game, good area, wide selection of game.

It is a time of year when elk are easily found and not harassed.

I like to hear the bulls bugle and watch how they respond.

As season now stands - have plenty of opportunity.

It is a beautiful time of year to be out, the elk are active and plentiful.

Nice weather, elk are active, plenty of elk.

But I would like to see less out of state hunters.

Nice time of year to hunt, hunting pressure is low.

It stays challenging to bag a trophy animal.

Early bugle season.

It gives hunters a long hunt during the rut for increased elk activity.

Good opportunity during bugle season.

It allows everyone a quality hunting opportunity due to length of season and districts.

Corresponds to bugle season, low hunter pressure.

I enjoy it.

Because it is exciting and fun and you get to see a lot of game.

Because I don't have to ask private landowners to hunt and there's no people out there.

Other than some hunting pressure, I seem to get into elk whenever I hunt them.

Good populations, access is possible but needs to be improved.

Very challenging.

Long season during the elk rut.

Plenty of available habitat and not too crowded.

Good hunting opportunities and not too much pressure.

Because I saw lots of elk.

The season is long and there's lots of game.

I saw elk every weekend (and bulls) and had several opportunities to kill one.

There is a reasonable chance for a score if a person does things right but it's always a challenge.

I like the long season to find them. It's the nicest time of the year.

Gives increased opportunity to be a successful hunter.

The challenge is there is you can find the game.

Get to bow hunt during the rut.

Length and time of season.

I like the percentage of bulls that are in the run for the Pope and Young record book.

In area 632 where I hunt, there are sufficient elk and not too many hunters!

The season is just fine, but there should be more game wardens. Especially avoid park boundaries to keep park officials away.

I like to hunt elk in the Missouri Breaks and I appreciate the way the season is now.

I feel we have a very good opportunity.

With the increased elk populations, greater opportunity exists.

Don't change anything because you'll sure screw it up again.

Seems to be good numbers of animals plus a few branch antlered coming back.

Season is open during rut and is of sufficient length.

Extremely challenging and great populations.

There are plenty of elk and places to hunt. However, there are too many nonserious hunters.

It gives me the opportunity to get out and hunt earlier and to hunt during the bugling season.

No complaints.

Opportunity exists to hunt big bulls along with cows for meat not only horns.

I did see a lot of elk in 1987.

Good animal numbers.

Being a former professional guide, the early archery bugle season works well.

There is a good elk population. Would like to see more trophy bulls.

The hunting is great although it would be nice to have increased populations and more proportions of trophy animals.

Well, I'm really a lousy bow hunter (I've never gotten anything) but it's fun to get out.

However, as stated, I believe CMR should be an archery only area.

I enjoy elk hunting with my bow. I love my teacher, and the elk love my bugle.

I have been lucky. It is getting harder to find a place to hunt.

Fees, regulations, access, season and game are very appropriate.

I'm dissatisfied with the mule deer hunter in that area.

I like to be able to hunt either sex.

Season corresponds with the rut.

I like to hunt either sex.

I am close to the healthiest herd in Montana. Have time to scout the area.

Generally yes, although increase in hunters and elimination of archery only in 311 (deer) has reduced the quality of hunting.

Could be a late season.

I think it's fine.

I continually see more elk every year than the year before.

"It's a challenge", and I see lots of game.

Lots of area to hunt with a few hunters.

The land - bag limits with no drawings for permits and abundance of elk in southwest Montana.

Yes, except to get an archery license a person should take a bow hunters education course and shooting ability test!

I seem to have found elk consistently. But so did logging outfits.

Good.

Did not hunt elk with bow in 1987.

Offers a challenge.

I think there is adequate game and areas to go hunting.

Because it allows you to hunt in permit only areas that are closer to my home.

My only problem was I ran into a bear.

I find it a rewarding experience and would oppose changes.

During bugle season makes for exciting time to be afield.

I don't hunt elk with a bow.

Some areas like the Missouri Breaks are getting very overcrowded.

Good lengthy season but don't open it until after Labor Day.

In the area I hunt the elk are plentiful for hunter-animal ratio.

Good opportunities, including chance at bugling elk.

See animals and less people, and most of specialized hunters are sportsmen!

I hunt 410 or 700. I just can't afford to hunt the western part of the state. It gives me a chance to hunt elk. It makes it affordable for me!

All problems considered we still have the best opportunity in the

country to bag a good bull elk.

First year of archery hunting for elk - limited information.

There is plenty of opportunity to come in contact with elk.

I feel Montana is a top elk producing state with ample hunting opportunity provided.

Uncrowded, either sex, during bugle season.

It's excellent when you find them.

Good time of year.

Most importantly I see very few hunters out there and lots of country.

It is a great challenge.

I think if a person is a decent hunter the opportunity is very good.

The stopping hunting of spikes is helping out the big bull population.

There is starting to be more big bulls, with the stopping killing of spikes.

Most laws and restrictions are within limits to be complied with.

I always see many elk but seldom choose to kill one.

They are there if you can find them.

Only from friends.

Because I think it is safer than rifle hunting.
Plenty of game, not many hunters, season falls just right, laws are just right.

Lots of elk, it's during the rut, and you are able to see them close.

Many trophy class elk to hunt.

Timing and length of season are excellent. Good elk populations.

Yes, very pleased. Keep up the good work.

Nice place to hunt.

The season usually starts a little before the rut and lasts well into it.

Excellent hunting opportunity.

I feel that as a bow hunter I have all the areas to choose from.

Choice of sex and length of season.

Because where he hunt there is elk where there wasn't any before.

Never hunted anywhere else to compare it with.

It causes the hunter to be a better hunter.

Early season. However, I have never hunted elk but may have time in future.

Long leisurely season, few people.

Challenge; have always seen game and had a chance.

My only concern has been with the seismic operations around Red Lodge where I have hunted the last four years. Haven't heard an elk bugle up there for three years now.

Yes, except I would like to see something different in the Missouri Breaks - maybe charge for a permit fifty dollars or so.

Haven't got any yet but I enjoy it.

I've seen a fair number of good bulls.

The length of season is sufficient to the rut of the elk. If you don't have a chance during bow season you may have one during rifle season.

Good wilderness experience.

Because we have more freedom.

I buy my tag, spend money for gas and food, hunt hard, and enjoy the outdoors.

I like the long seasons and many opportunities (choice of district etc.).

Little hunting pressure.

The time of year is right and the personal satisfaction of being close to game on their own ground is very rewarding.

It provides the appropriate experience that archery hunters desire.

Few hunters.

Good elk population; it's tricky but if you don't like it go to Safeway!

It's fairly easy to find a bull and get close to it. Shooting it is the problem!

Beautiful country, plenty of elk, good long season.

It's cool.

The areas I hunt have many elk with plenty of large bulls.

More places to hunt.

In the areas around Libby I see more elk since they quit early rifle bugle season in 1971.

Open area hunting, early season, before black powder or rifle.

It's early and during bugling season when you have the best chance.

Good opportunity to get a kill.

See animals everyday.

The only improvement would be an increase in branch antlered bulls.

Plenty out there, just not experienced enough yet!

Early fall, mating season bugling is very exciting. The herds are building up.

Season coincides with the rut quite well.

My hunting partners and I always see elk and have good success.

Because it eliminates the people who are not real hunters.

Animals are readily accessible.

As yet I've made no attempt to hunt elk (archery).

Good populations of elk, not too many hunters.

Because I feel a sense of freedom with bow hunting, and the ability to hunt with a rifle also.

The either sex areas, length of season, time of season.

I like to be able to hunt either sex without a special permit.

Nice hunting.

Because of letting any bow hunters have a good chance of going very close in an area.

There is a fair number of elk in the area hunted.

Good timing generally.

Because you don't see very many people.

Because it's not crowded, you can bugle, plus elk are not spooky.

See and hear elk, even if I have never arrowed any.

Enjoy the sport and thoroughly enjoy the outdoors.

I see animals when I archery hunt.

Plenty of opportunities.

The season is during their rut and it's the best time to get close enough for a good shot.

Because even if I don't get anything at least I can go out at the best time of the year to hunt.

There are a lot of areas, with a good chance of seeing game.

I feel it's good at this point but is declining and some changes are needed.

I just enjoy getting out and seeing animals, especially when they are in the rut even though I haven't got one yet.

Montana supports a good population of elk and trophy bulls.

We have a good elk hunting season.

I just went out for a few days to camp and scout - it was great.

Hunting the rut, long season.

There are plenty of elk in Montana.

I can hunt either sex.

Scenery, exercise, and the possibility for success; six point bull or buck.

There is good hunting, lots of game.

Adequate game levels during nice part of the year.

Length and time of year for season.

Basically yes, I really didn't hunt as hard as usual this year for elk.

I have fun hunting elk and deer with bow or gun whether I get one or not.

It's either sex.

No problems that I can spot out.

Great opportunity during good weather, not near so many hunters as gun season.

It gives time to hunt when you can.

There appears to be plenty of elk to allow a chance for a successful hunt.

If you hunt on public land but not on private.

Season corresponds with rut, good management of elk herd.

Hunt before general season.

The elk are there. The challenge is also.

Gives a chance for either sex kills.

It's new to me, and plenty exciting.

The opportunity for taking a mature bull elk is better than any other time.

It's the time of the year the elk aren't spooked and they are easy to find.

Although I have never got a shot at anything it is a thrilling sport.

I may travel several areas to hunt elk at any time.

Plenty of elk in area I hunt.

They offer hunting during the best time to hunt trophy bulls.

It gives me the chance to scout before rifle season.

They are there - persistence and determination will pay off.

It starts before seeding and still is long enough to hunt after fall work.

Pressure from other hunters isn't too bad and I usually get at least one chance at a shot.

I enjoy the challenge! And it helps knowing it is either sex,
i.e. it doubles my chances.
Lots of elk statewide (mountains), access to federal lands.

A later season would be nice, however.

We have a lot of elk herds.

It gives everyone an equal chance.

Because it enables me to bugle in elk.

The fewer number of hunters and the time of year.

I think that the people who do bag an elk with bows deserve them!

Quality is good. Excellent opportunities if willing to hike away
from roads.

Own season and good length of season.

Lots of elk where I go.

Provides quality experience with excellent opportunity to take an
elk.

My experiences were good but with only one season I've nothing to
complain with.

Great opportunities to hunt during bugling season.

Good numbers, possibility for harvesting exceptional bulls.

Need management of larger trophy animals.

Because it's a great archery season. But I think bulls should be
protected more in gun season.

Because with either sex, it gives you a chance to hunt for meat
as well as for a trophy.

The right time of year.

I enjoy the feeling of being so close to the animal, I can smell
them.

Sighted a fair number of elk and not a lot of hunter pressure.

Saw more elk.

Challenging.

I had chances to get big game.

Lack of restrictions, yet reasonable season.

Management has kept the elk population up to par.

Because I see more elk in bow season than I do in gun.

Because there are a lot of elk where I hunt, all we have to do is hit one.

It's a good time of year to hunt.

Because of the availability of elk and the time of season.

If successful or not I just love to hunt in the C.M. range.

Because one can only have one elk per person either bow or rifle.

Lack of hunters.

Because of the abundance of elk in area I hunt.

Hunting is still not congested as during the rifle season.

Most all areas you can take either species; some areas need more cows taken.

Large area, few hunters, coincides with bird hunting.

Haven't tried it.

Because of all the odds against a bow hunter compared to a gun hunter's chances.

The amount of game seen.

There's ample game if you get off the road and walk through the woods.

Because it's great if you get the chance.

Season is during the rut.

It offers a true challenge during the most beautiful time of year to be in the mountains.

The elk populations is very high right now and if you know "elk" you'll do well.

It offers a good chance to bag an elk without pressure.

There could be more elk in 631 but there's enough to get me to try.

Good country, lot of elk.

As of yet it's not overpopulated with out of state hunters.
The opportunities are there if the archer can go after them.
See much more game.

I see more game during archery season.

I like the opportunity to hunt but not paying for landowners permission on our state land.
I have had the chance to hunt when the elk are bugling, and if I don't get and elk I rifle hunt.

Yes, except for road closures that would keep me from retrieving downed animals.

I am only able to get to Missouri breaks due to job. Have always seen numerous elk. Always see a six or seven point, usually see more than one.

Season length, usually great weather, and the excitement of bugling.

Ample opportunity to hunt and find elk during bow season.

I saw more elk during bow season than I did during rifle season.

It lets me get out, I enjoy bugling and seeing the country.

Generally, with a few districts excluded.

The habitat, animals and potential are there. Also timing is good.

Being a careful hunter I won't take a shot without being positive.

Because there is a large population.

I usually see elk and have the opportunity to shoot.

It is difficult as it is everywhere else in the U.S., and that keep the weak hunters away from the woods.

Only comment would be more animal habitat.

Long either sex seasons.

I didn't hunt elk this year, but we have a good elk population and good management.
The area I hunt has lots of large antlered elk.

The only thing I don't like is giving up my first rifle choice to

hunt in the Breaks.

I've seen plenty of elk while I've been out hunting.

Because they are in the rut.

We have good numbers and you can hunt during the rut.

Season and bag limit are right.

Most areas are either sex.

Because there isn't much that I think needs to be changed.

They are a little hard to find so serious archers are mostly afield.

At least I think so, school starts then and I don't get a chance to go out.

Lots of challenge, learn how the elk live, know more about elk.

Basically I would like less hunters and more bulls, but who doesn't?

Variety of game and I think the country is real nice.

I just feel happy with the way the archery hunt is at present. It's set up well.

I have not hunted elk seriously.

It's an excellent challenge.

Because of the opportunity to shoot either sex which ups the percentages.

There has not been the pressure of the guides and out of state hunters yet.

Good elk populations.

Meets the needs of most archery hunters.

Because there are several areas that contain trophy animals.

Many areas to hunt.

Unique opportunity and very satisfying.

It is a sporting way to hunt elk.

Yes, except the male population could be increased somehow in 201 and 203.

Yes, except the number of elk hunters is growing so fast that restrictions may be necessary.

Hunters have a good chance if they spend some time and effort.

Excellent hunting - variety of big game animals to hunt.

I like the option to be able to take either sex.

You can hunt either sex.

Good season.

Rules are simple, hunters are spare.

I like the time the season is and the animals are there, you just have to find them.

Because in Lewistown I have access to the Missouri Breaks and Belts for hunting.

Because of ample opportunity.

I see elk whether I shoot or not.

All of my hunting is done in area 447. Elk population is good there.

Because I still have the opportunity to do it without the expense of guides when I can get on land.

It gives me a chance to see large bulls which does not happen often in general season.

Season is long enough and time of year is most favorable to be out.

Early enough to have good access to hunting areas.

Because of the challenge and the practice and conditioning needed. And also because of the number of game seen as opposed to rifle hunting.

Except for some state land that I feel should be open.

Because we enjoy the hunting; hearing the elk bugle and scenery.

Elk are plentiful and season coincides with the rut.

I bugled in seven mature bull elk.

I can shoot either sex elk.

There is a plentiful elk population for archery hunting - either

sex should be permitted regardless of rifle restrictions.

As of yet the hunt is not encumbered by too many rules and regulations - getting close though.

Yes, except hunters should have to apply for all areas for either archery or rifle, not both.
Opportunities for harvest are plentiful.

I'm seeing many more animals, just that season is uncooperative.

Like to observe the animals during the rut and before general season.

The season could be a few weeks longer.

Too new at it to be dissatisfied with anything but the added opportunity.

It's the best hunting of the places I've hunted.

The season is fun.

I like the sport.

For the reason that it is an option to take a cow elk.

The challenge of hunting the elk.

It's a good opportunity to get game for family.

We could use better access to "our" state lands.

There seems to be enough elk to satisfy all serious hunters but the grouse hunters screw things up.

Because I know how to hunt them, and I know where to hunt them.

Yes, except for the slob hunters.

Length of season, time of season.

Either sex.

Basically, I am satisfied with the archery season in Montana. Because it gives people a chance to enjoy and learn such things as patience and skillfulness.

It is very challenging.

Generally satisfying experience but know of elk being shot with rifle.

Excellent opportunity for increased outdoor recreation.

Too many getting shot and left.

I have excellent places to go, open almost everywhere.

Yes, except for long season.

Yes, except would like to see more locked gates in rutting areas.

Abundance of game.

Good amount of forest ground to hunt; close to some prime country.

Not too many people yet; provides a challenge.

We have good elk herds and a fair bull population.

There is elk all over where we hunt.

Enough elk around and enough daylight hours; not much pressure from hunters.

Less crowded hunting, less guides and hunters.

Falls during the rut. Able to get out and hunt before the rifle season.

I see more elk in the remote regions but people sight in guns at this time which disturbs the placement of elk population.
The season is during the rut.

Because where I go there are very few hunters.

Can hunt with both bow and rifle.

Because there are so many quality elk in our state.

The quality and quantity of the resource is better than ever.

Because we have plenty of elk.

Yes, except occasionally find wounded animals.

Yes, I just wish I could be out there more of the season.

Has good hunting and some good shots - but miss!

Because we are allowed to hunt during the rut.

A lot of game of high quality out there.

Abundance of wildlife; works good with bird hunting. Gives me a chance to do both.

Mostly because there are not many restrictions.

Because elk are hard to find but there are a lot of them.

It's the best time of the year to hunt elk.

Excellent herd management, adequate season (length).

The season is long enough. They include the elk rut. There are good game populations.

It is a good challenging way to get out and spend time in the outdoors.

Elk populations are good if you know where to find them.

It gives everyone a chance. It's not too costly and there's lots of time.

My state offers some fine elk hunting within hours of my home. I can backpack or live in a camping area and still my family can enjoy it.

Season is long enough and you can shoot either sex.

It's a great challenge.

Yes, except I would like to see more protection on big bulls rather than quantity of elk.

It is a challenge for me and my friends.

Not many hunters, lots of area to hunt.

Adequate game available and enough time to hunt.

Because I enjoy being out hunting during the time elk are in the rut. It's exciting to me.

Yes, except in southwest Montana you cannot shoot spikes.

Because you get to hunt during the bugle season.

I don't ever have too drag.

Got to hunt often and it was warm.

Long season, either sex, no point system.

First year hunter - wouldn't know any difference.

Good opportunity and exciting, see more elk than during regular season.

I enjoy hunting elk when they are bugling. I would like to see

more big bulls.

Good number of bulls in my area, but mostly nontrophy.

Over the last couple of years the elk population seems to be growing where I hunt.

Because it's a challenge and I like the archery season and the rules as they are.

Because it is before rifle season so you have a little better chance of getting one.

The season generally coincides with the elk rut. I had no access problems to hunting areas hunted.

Bugling season varies timewise from year to year and the season has to be longer than two weeks.

You always see elk without seeing a lot of other hunters.

The early season gives one a chance to get close using the natural behaviors of the animals.

Just like to be out there and see the elk. Don't give a damn if I kill one.

Time of year, adequate season length.

Either sex is great.

Fairly large numbers of elk, lots of areas to hunt with few hunters, adequate access, increased hunting opportunity in the state.

We have a good elk population and lots of places to hunt. We also have the freedom to hunt another area if we feel the area is too crowded.

The elk aren't very spooked yet and it is still a challenge. This being my first year, it seems satisfactory.

It gives a person a chance to hunt during the rut.

Lots of places to hunt.

Although this is my first year, it proved to be very exciting.

There seems to be enough game at the moment, and plenty of places to hunt them.

Yes, except I wish the population was larger.

Where I usually go, I have yet to see another hunter in the

field.

I have not tried elk yet.

I enjoy the freedom from many regulations and the ability to get out away from the "regular" hunters.

Most serious hunters hunt for elk most of the time.

I like the hunting because it is during bugling season.

Long season during the rut. Quality hunting.

Because you have a chance to hunt them longer than if you just rifle hunted.

Everything is just right.

Game is plentiful except in the northwestern portion of the state.

It is during bugle season.

The elk herds are very stable and even growing. (So why the permits in 621 and 632?)

I enjoy the length of the season and feel the level of success is so low that there is no need to shorten it. Also, the herds are big enough to insure the possibility of success.

Because it runs during the rut.

Good opportunity to kill elk.

Plenty of elk - opportunity is there.

I feel the elk herd in Montana is getting better every year and there are more branch antlered bulls.

Could be more big bulls, but still see plenty of elk.

Because I like the amount of game and the low competition.

Very challenging, see lots of game.

The great open spaces and the amount of game in any given year.

This was my first year of archery hunting and I enjoyed it!

I see no need for improvement.

At this point in time there are opportunities to hunt and elk available.

You can take either sex, there are many elk in the areas I hunt

in and not many hunters.

I feel there is enough branch antlered bulls.

It is an enjoyable time of the year.

I have seen a fair amount of good bulls.

Always see elk, good weather conditions, have the chance to call elk by bugling.

Right time for elk, long enough.

Early season, either sex, during rut.

Challenging.

Wide open areas to hunt.

Appropriate time of year, length of season, and I generally see several elk while I am hunting.

I feel I have a chance to see elk every day.

Great time of year (annual rut)!

Good hunting.

Plenty of opportunity to get out where no one else is.

Elk numbers and trophy bulls are at an all time high.

Lots of game.

Bow is before rifle and during rut.

Adequate populations of elk and extensive hunting areas.

Sufficient space and herd numbers.

Not much pressure, lots of game.

The variety of game.

There was opportunity to take elk.

Although in three years of hunting elk with a bow I have never even shot an arrow, but it is the most thrilling hunting I know.

I enjoy the opportunity to hunt elk during the rut.

Occurs during the rut.

Good chance to take a cow elk for meat.

It's a great challenge.

Can see lots of elk in early season.

I will be satisfied as long as I don't see an increase in poor archery hunters.

Yes, except for lack of game.

I just wish I lived a little closer to elk. I wasn't able to travel this year.

The season is early enough and long enough.

Because of the solitude (woods are not crowded).

It's not restricted, and I see numerous big bulls.

Where I hunt there seems to be adequate numbers. I would like to see more of course.

Weather is warm and the elk are bugling.

Fewer hunters that during big game season.

For the most part, I do feel there are too many archery hunters blowing bugles in certain areas affecting the elks natural habits.

Beautiful country.

Because it allows me to get right out with the elk and watch (pictures). I like to study them.
The excitement.

Access to any area, either sex.

On BLM and federal land it's good. On private land it's getting harder.

Good hunting.

It is okay. I think we need more trophy size bull elk though.

Good population.

There is opportunity without a lot of competition.

Elk are usually hard to run into during rifle season.

Great way to hunt.

Yes, except need to increase populations.

It offers plenty of good hunting opportunities and challenge.

Gives opportunity to hunt elk during rut and before general season.

I believe the elk population is growing in my area.

It's enjoyable getting out.

Season is perfect time of year, opportunity to see more elk.

I always see a lot of elk and have some good chances.

Seems to be plenty of animals and not too many hunters.

I like the length of the season and the time, but would like to see more branch antlered bulls.
Either sex.

It gives me what I want in archery hunting.

I love hunting elk with my bow. I look forward to it all year long!

It gives me the time I need to find elk on their own terms.

It gives you a chance to bugle in a trophy animal.

I usually see elk and even get a shot now and then.

Generally yes, some areas should be trophy only archery seasons.

There's still a large opportunity to hunt without special permitting and severe restrictions.

I am almost always able to spot and stalk elk.

A real challenge - Montana has a lot of good elk hunting.

Because there is not many hunters in my area.

Uncrowded, still have opportunity at large bulls (this however may be changing).

590 open to archery elk hunting!

Because I have a chance to get a big bull while in the rut. Also there are no other hunters.

The effect of archery on the population (resource) is very low.

Good game numbers, good season length and timing, however I oppose limited areas (branch bull only, spike only).

Yes, except areas along the Missouri River should have the same regulations.

1987 was my first year at the sport. I had a quality experience on each of five outings, saw many elk and was not bothered by competition.

Good time to take a break.

Plenty of opportunities.

Because it offers a challenge of the outdoors, and of the hunt.

It's just a good time of year to be out in elk habitat.

It's a beautiful way to see nature and you might even get a challenging kill.

I don't see any necessary changes.

I like the choice of places.

The weather is good enough to get up into the high country.

I like it early and either sex.

There is plenty of game and fewer hunters. There is also nicer weather.

I like the sport and it gives good opportunities at elk.

Plenty of elk, few people.

Season is adequate.

Because it is very challenging and more regulations will ruin the hunting.

I like the sport and the chance to get close to big game.

Branch antlered only hunting has definitely helped increase larger bull hunting.

Because there is plenty of elk.

The season dates are well placed, animal limits are right, small amount of hunters.

I haven't hunted much, but I feel there is ample opportunity for me to kill an elk.

Season, either sex.

Because it's challenging.

Saw many animals, not too many hunters.

If it needs improvement I'm sure there would be some changes made in the laws.

The season is right for bugling.

Because you are able to hunt either sex of elk.

I can hunt all day without seeing another hunter and see plenty of game.

It allows access to areas closed to rifle season.

It is a definite challenge to bugle mature bulls within bow range (sometimes).

Large state, still lots of places where you won't see anyone.

There seem to be enough animals to keep it exciting.

I find it very challenging and exciting.

Plenty of elk and they are bugling.

Because it gives me a reason to be out in the woods and as a consequence I'm able to see and be with a lot of wildlife. The animals are there and are tough to get, so when you get one you've accomplished something.

It provides a lot of recreation without seriously threatening elk populations.

We have a large choice of areas to hunt that are public land.

Because of the time of the year (fall) and weather. It's challenging, hunt all species, either sex.

Good opportunities but too many hunters.

Lots of elk and lots of good bulls.

It offers great opportunity for the serious hunter.

Have access to private property which is generally exclusive (no fees).

It is exciting and hard.

Seems to be fine.

It is very enjoyable and I get to see a lot of game in the areas I hunt.

Either sex opportunities.

I feel that I have a very good opportunity to hunt anywhere I want.

I get to see elk before they go back in the hills.

I like it just the way it is.

Lack of hunting pressure.

I get a good quality hunt.

This was the first year I went elk hunting and I was satisfied with hearing the bugling that was going on.

Yes, except need late hunting - post season.

Adequate elk population, freedom to hunt in different areas.

Because I get to hunt in a good district that I know well.

I heard there was elk around.

Yes, except I have encountered a lot more out of states participating this year over last.

Because I have usually seen them and you can hunt either sex and in any district.

Good amount of elk.

Yes, except mixed regulations and every one who received or who buys a bow is out opening week.

Because the time of year is right.

Good game populations and opportunity for the individual who will put out the effort.

There isn't a lot of hunting pressure.

I have not made a kill but the fault is mine not Montana's.

It fits my hunting wishes; time is right, length of season.

Good elk numbers, season during rut.

Very challenging.

We can hunt where we want to and Montana has a good stable elk population.

Because it is challenging and not an easy kill.

It fits my needs and wants.

Length of season, time of season.

Basically yes, populations could be better but I think hunting is good.

Adequate opportunity for the dedicated to harvest an elk any season he chooses.

Yes, you get out of it what you put into it.

Ample time and a challenge.

The areas that I hunt have supplied me with quality hunting.

Fair opportunity for success.

It is probably better for a quality hunt than any other state in the lower 48.

Yes, except why is 324 closed to archery hunting but yet open for rifle season?

I can hunt big bulls and there are quite a few to hunt; lots of elk to hunt.

It gives me a lot of chances at elk.

We get to see some most seasons, shot one once.

I like my freedom.

Long enough season to hunt elk during bugle season.

Yes, except my only complaint would be access.

I feel it should be left the way it is.

Yes, except the only change could be with hunter ethics in the field.

An opportunity to get out and listen to the elk bugle.

It isn't overrun with knot heads, most archery hunters are serious.

I like having two seasons. It allows you to see some branch antlered bull every year.

Although I haven't shot an elk with a bow, I usually see or hear elk consistently.

I have excellent hunting nearby.

The opportunity to hunt in permit areas only for rifle.

You can almost always get an elk.

Permit hunting north side of Missouri River.

In the areas I hunt I get into elk each year.

So far there haven't been too many restrictions, such as access, but it was better ten years ago.

The Montana State Prison is open for bow hunting.

Yes, except we need better access to public lands.

Because you can hunt either sex of elk.

We have a good season and plenty of elk.

Good variety of lands with fair access.

Because there are elk to be hunted by all.

Can not afford to go anywhere else.

Most landowners are willing to let archery hunters hunt on their land.

Light hunting pressure, good numbers of game.

I love to hunt and there is always game out there.

I see elk almost everytime I go out to hunt.

For just bring my second year as an archer, I saw more elk than I've seen in all my years during general season.

It gives me a chance to get out and enjoy the country, something everyday.

I haven't hunted elk that much but I enjoy it. I haven't seen a lot but any elk will do.

623 management is okay.

General conditions (game, weather etc.) make for a very pleasurable hunting experience.

It falls during the rut.

Limitless opportunity in most regions, lengthy season, excellent time frame (rut).

Getting close is rewarding enough.

Long season and opportunity to hunt different areas.

Good chance of seeing game.

It is a time I can go out and feel safe hunting.

It is a difficult sport but I have seen, shot at, and had success. I especially like to be in the woods during the rut.

Opportunity to hunt the Missouri Breaks.

It gives hunters a chance to take a trophy bull on public lands!

Because I see (bugle in) lots of elk and have a ball chasing them!

Because the bull are bugling and are easier to locate.

There is an appropriate amount.

Game is relatively plentiful.

There are a lot of good places to go hunting.

It's great!!

Because of the early opportunity and the lack of other hunters.

I feel there are plenty of elk and I enjoy having to work harder to get elk.

Game is plentiful.

Good season length and access to quality hunting on public lands.

It is a challenging way to hunt and should make a better rifle hunter.

It is a great challenge.

We have a fairly long season, and there is no either/or season.

I don't have to choose between rifle/archery license. Allows me to hunt either sex. Areas with a lot of hunters are controlled by permits.

Good amount of game, wide variety of terrain and area.

There is ample opportunity to stalk and take elk in the state.

Long liberal season.

Because the elk population seems to be growing every year.

I have always had the opportunity to harvest an elk. I'm just fussy.

Because of the early time at which they are hunted.

Plenty of elk, less people.

Yes, because of either sex and archery gives more time to hunt along with rifle season.

I believe there are plenty of elk and enough accessible land to hunt.

Because I don't do a whole lot.

Seems to be an increase in the number of animals.

Long seasons, including bugle season, many areas to choose.

Elk are not spooked, few hunters, landowners aren't as reluctant.

The season is long enough and you should be able to kill an elk if you hunt either sex.

This was the first year I hunted, and there was a satisfactory amount of elk.

Lots of area to hunt, not crowded with hunters.

I can go hunting close to town and be in good habitat reasonably soon.

So far there are not too many hunters in the regions I hunt.

The area I hunt is close to home and we saw plenty of game.

Gives bow hunters time to hunt before rifle season.

I hunted area 632 where my son and I both drew permits and it was great.

Everything seems to suit me fine.

Fun and challenging.

I hunt wilderness where my vehicles are allowed and at this time it isn't terribly crowded with other archery hunters.

Extra hunting time.

It provides the opportunity to hunt elk.

I would like to see more elk in the Missouri Breaks.

I hunt the Missouri Breaks. It's good hunting and close to home.

Areas you can hunt unlimited with a bow that are permit only rifle.

As our second season now stands, it gives a good chance to find a good elk.

Because so far there hasn't been any real hassle by bureaucrats yet.

Plenty of opportunity.

It's exciting.

It allows me to hunt elk during the rut when many can be seen and heard.

The way it is set up now is the way it should be.

I have been able to get an elk within first two days the past two years.

It is a pleasant and relaxing time.

Just started, give me a chance.

Because it is fun.

The elk is probably my favorite animal to pursue and Montana supports a healthy population.

Length of season, cover weather change and moon, also "rut", and plenty of elk.

During peak of rut, good weather in high country.

Yes, except more than one late season hunt for elk would be nice.

It is the right time of the year as our quarry is difficult to hunt.

Yes, except for a late season archery hunt for elk and deer around trouble areas.

I have no problem finding places to go, no pressure from other hunters.

If you are willing to work for it you can get an elk, if you aren't you may not even see any.

Yes, except many ranchers dislike archers because of wounded game.

It's a nice long season including deer, elk and bear.

Yes, except I would like to be able to have a tag for archery and a tag for rifle.
I think the archery season and regulations are just about right the way they are.

Archery, I think is at a peak level. Many persons are beginning to drop out and I feel the hunter numbers may decrease in a two to five year span.

The elk aren't being threatened to much so it's just right.

Not too many people hunt archery, a early hunt for big game.

I usually get my fair share of shots.

Best there is.

At present in areas wherre I hunt, I don't feel we've reached the threshold for choice between archery or rifle. At some point in the future this will probably be necessary.

No specific reason.

I can hunt for either sex and can hunt in any district according to district regulations.

As things stand I'm satisfied but I see no reason for archery or rifle to be number one.

Yes, except for increasing nonresidents all over.

Because it's a challenging sport.

My first year in Montana and I was not able to hunt.

During rut.

Yes, except should choose either rifle or archery.

There is ample amount of time during the rut and I usually find enough elk to satisfy me even though I have never taken a shot.

It coincides with rut.

Elk are more of a challenge to hunt which makes it better to look forward to the next day of hunting.

In my area there are few hunters and a fair amount of elk.

Overall good opportunities, but should have late bow seasons.

Because you can hunt both species.

It is satisfactory to me.

As things stand I'm satisfied but I see no reason for archery or rifle to be number one.

They should open 622, 631 and 632 to all archery hunters.

I like getting out not so much to shoot but too see.

Because if you want to work at it you can be all alone with elk.

Lots of elk, not too many hunters yet!

It opens early enough to allow hunting while the elk are bugling.

Not enough experience to complain!

The areas I hunt always have plenty of elk and very few people.

Elk are fairly plentiful.

We have an excellent season and good elk numbers.

We saw lots of elk this year and some good bulls.

Have not had any problems with access. Enjoy the remote country to get away and enjoy.

I like the time in the wilderness.

Good herds and proper season.

It is as good as any state.

I live in Glasgow; the CMR provides many elk to hunt.

I feel there is a good chance for a hunter to see herds of elk in most any area.

Hunting either sex.

It gives you the biggest challenge of all the big game.

Because I see hundreds of elk and usually manage to kill one.

There are lots of elk if you know where they are.

Good - fair populations, relatively few hunters.

Challenge, accessibility.

Best quality of hunt "today" and best landowner relations!

Always see a lot of elk.

The opportunity to take an elk is there.

I haven't hunted elk yet.

Yes, except too many cows are killed in rifle season.

Because it's such a challenge.

I get to hunt every year in a good area. It is hard to get on private land but we have CMR which enables us to have some good hunting.

It is so beautiful in the woods and getting up high enough and seeing elk is a wonderful sight.

In area 622 there is plenty of elk and lots of access to property.

Generally good elk numbers, fewer hunters.

Elk hunting, especially with a bow, kind of speaks for itself.

Because I like the status quo.

Hunt is during bugling (usually).

Adequate elk population.

Lengthy season allows hunting during rut and varying weather conditions.

It's the best chance to bugle in elk.

It's a good sport, good time, good season.

To be in and a part of the remaining wilderness is only one benefit.

Our area here that I hunt is real good.

Opportunity to see game during rut and try to bugle and cow talk them.

Because where I hunt there is a good number of them.

There are so many places with good elk hunting.

In my area everything suits my needs.

It's the only way I can hunt elk on my own land without a special permit.

Good elk population, good time of year.

The unlimited archery permit system in 621 and 623 is a good idea.

I would like to see more bulls but overall I'm satisfied with the elk season.

Presently a serious, modest income hunter has a pretty good opportunity for success.

Because there are enough bulls to hunt.

Good opportunity to see game; our party got good chances to score.

Very limited elk hunting experience.

It's fine right now.

The different areas to hunt, the time of year.

It's the best hunting in the lower 48 states.

See animals, few competitors, learn great deal about animals, no orange.

Opportunity, season length.

I enjoy getting out with the laws the way they are now.

The open season is flexible so that good opportunities are available in many areas.

Liberal, common sense regulations.

I feel there are plenty of elk and very little hunting pressure.

Lots of quality experience, lots of game sighted.

It give me a chance to be in the woods and observe all kinds of game and their habits longer each year.

We pack into the Bob Marshall. It's still not too crowded there. However, other areas are getting too congested ex. Beartooth game range.

There are no sex restrictions.

It's good and it's spread out far.

Few hunters, nice weather, great sport, affordable, and good way to extend my hunting season.

It's in the middle of the rut.

See more game and not gun shy.

The length of the season and the ability to hunt anywhere I want to in the state.

Right in the rut.

Wide variety of choices to hunt.

There is too much extended pressure! The elk don't have adequate time to breed and are on the run from September through November.

I had a lot of fun.

Many opportunities.

Little pressure away from roads, lots of game if you hunt hard, quality hunting for adult bulls.

I enjoy archery hunting and hunting elk is an added incentive.

Yes, except quality could be increased with branch antler season during year.

Good game population.

New experience.

Time and length of season, number of animals encountered.

It's before the general season and elk aren't as spooky.

I have seen incredibly beautiful wonderful things.

Overall I believe there is a cow over harvest but mainly with the rifles.

Because the weather is nice, can hunt both species.

Where I hunt I saw very few hunters and some game.

The seasons are adequately spaced and long.

Thrill, intimacy, silence, space, fall scenery and weather, earlier start, skill at controlling variables.

Lots of undisturbed elk, hunt during rut, either sex.

It allows me a better chance to get my elk.

Because the challenge to kill an elk is fun for me.

Sufficient elk, good habitat, good access if left as is.

Plenty of animals and less competition.

Fewer people, nice time of year, exciting.

Because there are great opportunities for wonderful hunts.

What little I've done I've never had any problems. I've seen elk.
Good numbers of elk.

Only because at this time of year the mountains have more elk than people.

Because I feel we have a sufficient amount of elk.

Season is good for bugling.

Everytime I have gone out hunting I have seen elk.

Corresponds with bugle season.

Solitude, either sex, and game not spooked yet.

I see a lot of elk but find them getting harder to bugle in.

It suits me.

Gives me more time to hunt since it's hard to locate elk.

Management has increased the amount of mature bulls in most areas, this has made finding animals significantly easier.

Because you are allowed one elk of either sex a year.

I'm pretty well satisfied as it is. It would be nice to see some bigger bulls but I'm sure they are there. I'm just not seeing them!

Because the area I hunt is not crowded and the elk population is good.

I've had good luck with bugling, and I know the territory well.

You have a fair chance at elk before rifle season opens.

I've seen elk everytime I've hunted but I just didn't get the shot I wanted.

Because it's fun and elk come in so close to you during archery season.

I like the chance of bugling in big bulls.

Excellent variety of hunting opportunities and conditions.

Ample opportunity to hunt elk with reasonable chances for seeing elk.

Elk are more abundant during the archery season.

I don't hunt them very much because I'm not an excellent shot.

Variety of areas to hunt in.

Too many cows get shot during rifle season decreasing the total elk population.

Have not had any problems with it.

The season and areas are good like they are!

Because you see a lot more elk in bow season.

The six dollar fee is not fair.

It's a challenge unlike rifle season.

It's good for everyone.

Because of the abundance of elk.

Well managed herd.

Lots of game.

It gives me the satisfaction I look for each year.
More often than not, experienced bow hunters encounter elk, but encounter very few hunters (in the right areas).

We have a well placed season. If it's shortened any, take a week off the start and a week off the end.

Quality hunting, lower numbers of hunters.

Always see elk during season.

Because I shot one!

Because the numbers are there.

Bugling season.

It's a real opportunity to kill an elk, be it a bull or cow or calf.

I feel if you work hard you have extremely good chances to score.

Hunting during the rut is favorable; would like to have late hunt.

I feel there are more than enough "trophy" bulls and archery season is the only time they are accessible.

Because it gives me a chance to see the game and enjoy the outdoors.

Because I enjoy hunting elk with the bow, and deer and elk with the rifle also if I'm not successful with the bow.

Access to elk areas is not difficult yet.

Opportunity to see game, almost every trip is great.

Montana is the best state in the union to hunt elk in. Plus elk act naturally undisturbed.

Good management of herds.

Seasons are adequate and elk population is generally good.

Yes, except outfitters take a little land every year, close roads illegally etc.

Because of the high number of elk I see in archery season.

It's doing bugle season and adds another challenge.

I've limited time to hunt so it is adequate for me and maybe not for others.

Challenging.

Long season, open to cows.

For the most part season and area are fairly well regulated.

Generally good opportunity.

Yes, except would like more branch bull only areas.

Because it is a challenge and it sharpens your skill.

There is only a limited amount of hunters in the district we hunt (632).

There may be too many big money guides and outfitters to compete with.

As a rule, elk are moving and bugling by the second week.

It allows me to get in on bugling season.

My favorite area is 380 and now some regulation is taking place to increase the branch antlered bulls.

The elk are here.

It's the challenge.

Less pressure.

Less hunting pressure.

I see more elk every year than the year before.

Because it is a peaceful time of the year and very relaxing.

Yes, except would like to have more elk.

Because it gives you a chance before the rifle season opens up, if you didn't draw a tag.

Increasing population.

Gives opportunity to hunt during the later part of the rut.

Not totally but it works and it does allow some freedom.

I was into elk every time I went but never saw any really big bulls.

Good timing.

I saw elk every time I went out.

Good time to see big game.

You stand a good chance during rut season.

Because it's great.

Because you very seldom get a rifle permit. So this gives more people a chance to hunt big game.

I can get out and enjoy the outing near home. Anticipation is the most important element. Access is the biggest problem.

I haven't hunted elk but I think the seasons are okay.

There are so many places you can go and hunt elk and deer.

Most districts are open to either sex.

Either sex in most districts and mostly accessible.

It's a challenge and a great majority enjoy the challenge of using a bow.

Yes, except I think elk should be branch antler statewide.

Because elk hunting is fun.

It's a challenge.

Nice weather, nice country.

Quantity of elk is good in my area (trophy quality leaves a little to be desired though).

Where I hunt you can see one once in a while.

Yes, except it is very disappointing to stalk an elk into range only to have a bird hunter fire his gun and spook the elk.

Either sex allowed, pretty good herd and management.

We now have the season at a good time of year but would like a later season.

It's open for either sex and during the rut.

The large numbers of elk provide even the bad hunters a chance.

Chance to hunt in the CMR refuge without getting a hard to get special permit. Plus it gives eastern Montana sportsman a better chance of an elk.

Using elk calls while they are rutting.

I'm not so concerned with getting an elk, it's just thrilling to hunt them.

At this time it is a quality hunting experience, less hunting congestion.

My first experience, I was very satisfied, although our hunt was unsuccessful.

But should be changed so all bulls can be hunted.

Numbers of animals, road closures, length of seasons.

Relatively unrestricted, long season, during rut.

Good population of elk.

Opportunity to see large elk, good game populations.

There is the opportunity to get an elk.

I saw a nice bull.

You can hunt either sex most any place.

Good opportunity to call and view elk.

Good time of year. I do enjoy the either/or sex for archery.

I enjoy it!

Bugling season, either sex, long season, few hunters, weather, very low key relaxing hunt.

It's pleasant and enjoyable, whether you bag one or not.

It gives me a great challenge.

No complaints!

Ability to hunt either sex.

I had an enjoyable time. I never saw a lot but did get close a few times. It's my first year so I have no complaints.

There is plenty of elk.

Yes, except there could be an archery late hunt for Gardiner area.

So far the system seems to be working.

You usually see elk and get your opportunities.

Able to hunt either sex.

Numbers of elk to hunt, quality hunting.

Lots of game, low impact by hunters.

Because there are plenty of elk to hunt in Montana.

Plenty of game.

Provides good opportunity; few restrictions.

Gives me a reason to get out and enjoy the outdoors; it doesn't matter if I get anything.

It's a personal challenge.

Good areas - Little Belts, Highwoods, have a lot of public lands! Dates are good, either sex is good.

It's the best in the country. It's partly why I live here.

Season opening date and duration are just right.

Great time of year, low hunting pressure, either sex.

There is a lot of game, that is accessibly obtained if you want to walk and get out for it. The seasons are okay with either

sex.

There are a lot of elk in Montana and you see more during archery.

There are areas where they can be easily encountered.

There is plenty of elk, but it is how much you learn while trying!

There seems to be a lot of elk the last few years.

You see enough elk and the season is at a good time of year.

Ample game, fairly high success rate, good bugling season.

Gives a better chance at an elk.

A lot of elk, not too many hunters at the end of season.

Long season, good time of year.

It is the best time of year to hunt elk.

Seems to be a good population of elk.

It is very exciting, and we normally get into elk.

Gives me a chance to see elk close up at a great time of year. There's no greater time and place to be than in the mountains listening to the bugling of bulls and pursuing them.

Because I really don't mind if I get an elk or not, if not I just wait until rifle season.

It seems fair to me.

No complaints.

I like either sex season all season.

Because of the time of the season.

Either sex is good; could be a little longer late season.

Gives you an early start on hunting and it's thrilling.

It gives lots of opportunity.

Big healthy herds.

It is not too cold out then. It is harder to shoot with a lot of clothes on.

Generally, yes. The quiet isolation away from other people; the beautiful scenery and the abundance of wildlife.

The number of elk seems to be increasing.

I feel that Montana has the best system in the U.S.A.

Yes, except we could stand to have more animals.

Lots of bulls.

I like having the choice of either sex elk in areas usually by permit only.

It is a challenge to get within bow range.

It is a either sex situation with minimal pressure.

Good population, good number of trophy class animals.

It was fun but need to get landowners to let more hunters have access to some lands.

Lots of elk, cows and bulls; good times hunting.

We have plenty of places and opportunities to hunt them.

I would like to see walk in areas opened to four wheelers when you get some down so you can get them out before they spoil.

Mostly I use it as a time to scout out terrain, like to sow and be quiet.

Now that the pressure is controlled in N.D. 632 and 631, the elk numbers have increased.

Where else do you get to hunt in a wide variety of areas.

Because it's a change from shooting a rifle.

The opportunity is there.

Plenty of game, hunters not concentrated yet. Hunters should choose rifle or bow.

The Missouri Breaks are extremely rich in game and they're highly visible.

Season during elk rut; elk are undisturbed.

Few restrictions, excellent opportunities.

The opportunities for seeing elk are good.

CMR is managed for trophy bulls. But I would like to see some

walk in wilderness areas.

You get closer to the elk and are able to see and learn about elk and nature.

Challenging, rigorous activity. Great hunt with a low success rate - it's tough.

It allows me to hunt elk with a bow.

In most areas you can still get away from crowds of casual hunters.

Bull frequently bugle, fairly large number of elk available.

It is abundant.

Because I alone killed my first elk with my bow.

Because there are numerous elk and a lot of area without roads.

Less congested, see more game, see less hunters, enjoy the hunt more.

Nice weather, beautiful time of year, lots of game and few hunters.

Good elk population and substantial wilderness areas to hunt in.

Allows you to get close to a big bull and that's a thrill.

Not as much competition in walk in areas.

Because I'm generally not restricted to where I can hunt. I'm limited only by my own monetary and time constraints and ability to get access.

I have seen a lot of elk in 380 but I haven't got close enough for a shot.

I like bugling season. I object to out of state hunters getting permits through outfitters who don't hunt with them.

There are enough elk in the hills, finding them is difficult.

Where I hunt elk, I feel the herds are adequate.

Branch antlered areas are improving the elk numbers.

Yes, except landowners are all leasing out around here. The best hunting for elk is closed off.

There is a good working relationship with Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Montana Bow Hunters Association.

It works okay for me.

I've had plenty of opportunities and excitement from this sport to keep me happy with the way things are.

Everything is A - okay. I hope you don't change seasons etc.

It has allowed me the ability to see big game in plentiful amounts in its natural environment due to Fish, Wildlife and Parks commitment to better elk habitat.

I love to archery hunt.

Excellent game and habit management.

It appears very challenging to me to hunt elk "of the Breaks".

Most generally, landowners are not as reluctant to let bow hunters hunt on their land.

I can hunt with a tag in most areas of the state.

Most often I am a weekend hunter and the length of season and closeness of area gives me the opportunity to do the kind of hunting I like.

Because I like the outdoors and like to hunt things.

I enjoy hunting elk this time of the year.

It's at the right time, adequate numbers, good area habitat.

Don't know how you could improve it.

Because the elk are bugling.

See a lot of animals.

Few hunters and lots of room.

The elk hunting in my area is okay but the ATV's should be restricted.

I enjoy hunting this time of year.

See lots of animals.

Because early hunting gives opportunity to hunt before elk are spooked beyond our range.

There are plenty of places and animals to hunt.

Because it seems there is more success ratio.

The elk population is satisfactory.

Plenty of cows when you find them.

I like either sex and nice fall weather.

Good time of the year.

Plenty of elk, good weather, ample season, elk bugling at this time.

Usually cows, but few bulls.

Because when I go bird hunting I can take my bow along.

It is fairly good.

I saw a lot of game this year.

It's just great to go out at that time of year - the weather, bugling etc.

Too new at it to know otherwise.

It's not full of horseshit rules.

I have had the pleasure of seeing and killing elk.

See more elk.

I was impressed by how hard it was and how "smart" they were.

Excellent opportunity here in southwest Montana.

It's the only time I take what I consider a vacation.

I've been close to elk but haven't hit one yet.

For now, yes, with increased hunter numbers, see #8, part 2.

I see elk.

Archery takes a lot of time and we have that!

I have never failed to see elk each time I was out hunting.

Yes, except access is becoming a real problem and outfitters leasing of land is in a big way responsible.

We see elk when we hunt.

Lots of elk in my area.

I saw elk and got a chance to stalk them.

Yes, except increased populations would be desirable.

We have a good opportunity for excellent hunting.

Better than hunting I've had anywhere else, but it is just as difficult.

Length of season, no shortage of public land.

With diligent hunting, elk can be found.

Where I hunt there is plenty of elk.

A lot of areas are open and accessible.

It's a good time of year to get out.

I did see elk on almost every day I was out hunting.

Yes, only if Fish and Game will refrain from making any more regulations.

Yes, except that most of the elk are on private ground where I can't hunt or I don't have access through private ground.

Enjoy the experience of hunting elk with a bow. Present seasons, regulations are fine.

Because there are elk to see and I try to get a shot.

A lot of areas otherwise permit only for elk are open for bow hunting.

Ample elk populations with plenty of opportunity.

Low pressure.

Because it is more of a challenge.

Because lack of people provides for overall quality outdoor experience.

The elk are available.

It provides the best quality and longest season archery hunt anywhere.

Enough small herds around to be able to find elk every couple of days regardless of where you go.

Because it makes a better hunter out of you.

Good elk populations and not a lot of hunters.

Fairly healthy elk herds in the areas I hunt.

Time of year and length of season conclusive to contact.

District 632 has limit and 631 and 622 are open.

Lots of elk; long season.

I see a lot of game.

We have the best state to hunt elk in the U.S. The number of animals in the area I hunt.

I am satisfied with everything except bow hunters who don't practice or are not serious.

For the most part I haven't any problems.

Because I like to hunt elk when they are bugling in the fall.

You get to hunt elk during bugling season.

Some riflemen get into an elk herd and shoot a lot of them, then they wonder why the elk population is down.

Because it is at the right time of year and the season gives you enough time to really hunt.

Don't really elk hunt.

Bugling season.

It is a challenge to get an elk with a bow.

We still have remote areas where hunters can get away from the roads.

An experience.

Yes, except I believe there are too many people in the hills that don't belong there.

Elk hunting is hard in Montana, so you have to get out and find them.

Yes, except some areas are highly competitive though and need regulation.

I am satisfied for the past year but have grave concerns for the coming hunting seasons.

Good exercise, weather, and you get to see elk.

Because there's a lot of game and not a lot of archery hunters.

I enjoy getting out early in the fall and see game whether I bag one or not.

There is a lot of elk.

Game populations are relatively high in most areas.

Because there is a lot of elk in our area but not in others.

Because I have seen and heard the elk.

Yes, except I do believe CMR should be an archery only area.

It allows hunters to get to the elk before they get wary.

Saw lots of elk the few times I went out.

I feel the transplant program around Troy has done well. Keep it up!

Long season.

Sportsmanship.

Opportunities for elk hunting are good.

Season is well timed. Trophy animals are available.

Because I got many shots (240), but not in other areas.

I did not hunt elk in 1987.

I see lots of elk including bulls.

As a whole, but improvement is needed.

Yes, except there are too many nonserious hunters.

The country, species available, and the time of the hunt (elk rut).

Plenty of game and places to hunt. It's during the rut.

Long season; hunt before rifle season.

Nice long season.

The time of year is right and the elk are not spooky.

It isn't real crowded in hunting area.

We see a lot of them.

1) Season is at the right time; 2) long season 3) variety of opportunities.

I enjoy seeing the elk during their mating season.

Lots of hunters; we need manual only bows.

Time of year, game population, scenery, and friends.

No one will walk in where I go so I have very little competition.

Bugled in a lot of elk but none close enough for shot.

Plenty of elk, but very challenging.

Season seems to be fair on most all counts and allows for good success.

Less hunter competition; more contact with elk during rut with bugling and camouflage.

If anyone says no, it's only because they can't find any elk.

Better chances at seeing big game.

The season runs through the rut and is long.

I don't see very many problems and the game is there if you want to go for it.

Because the bugling season is during the bow season.

I really don't hunt for elk with a bow.

Because everybody has the same chance.

Because of the numbers in the field.

There's not too many hunters and I like to bugle elk.

Because there are plenty of elk.

I can go any place in the state that is legal and enjoy the outdoors, the bugling, and the animals.

I saw a lot of elk this year and we see more and more elk year by year.

Opportunity to hunt during the rut.

The bugling is good.

Animals are available and pressure in my area is relatively light.

If a person has some initiative and will walk, chances are good.
The animals are healthy and present a challenge that no other animal could.

Sufficient time allotted during the proper time (season).

Always enjoy myself - less hunting pressure.

It offers the hunter options with growth of herd a major concern.

It is a great sport. It is nice to get out and enjoy the scenery and see game.

Because the archery season is in the height of the bugling season.

Elk numbers in my area are up and easily located; time to hunt is my biggest obstacle.

Numerous choices can be made prior to hunt as to location and sex.

The opportunities for taking elk with a bow are unequalled anywhere in the country.

I've seen more elk; every year there seems to be more animal.

Pro's weigh the con's, so it's satisfactory.

Yes, except for the fact that elk are becoming very spooky because of some hunters who don't know how to bugle very good.

Because it's during bugling season.

Montana is only one of a few states left that offer good hunting.

Currently satisfied, but concerned about future increases in hunter numbers.

You have more opportunities.

Season is right time.

The season is fair, difficult to hunt but very challenging and satisfying (two elk, one deer, one bear in past six seasons).

I really enjoy the Montana outdoors and the challenge of bow hunting.

It's very difficult.

Time of year and length of season is okay. Would like to see more game.

It gives me adequate time to trophy hunt in different parts of the state.

Hunting is good.

Nice time of year; not overly crowded; either sex opportunity; chance to enjoy the outdoors without all the restrictions.

I just like to get out and enjoy.

It's a challenge to see if you can get close enough to shoot.

The elk are here you just have to find them.

To be able to spend time in the mountains in September, and to hunt with a bow is just a plus.

Good numbers of elk, although in some areas there's not a good bull population.

Because it's for everyone, not just a chosen few.

Because elk are more visible during the rut.

Ample season length and opportunity to hunt during the rut.

There are plenty of elk and it is a challenge.

It gives me a chance to hunt elk for a longer season since I live so far from it.

Plenty of elk and opportunities.

Good regulations.

There are enough elk to satisfy me for my archery purposes. The wide variety of opportunity with very few restrictions.

Normally have good success.

Good regulations and proper season length.

I have not hunted elk with a bow yet, so I am not qualified to answer.

Opens and closes at right time.

Yes, except more wilderness hunts are needed.

Very challenging; good practice for gun season.

Long either sex season.

Lots of elk and quite a few big bulls.

I am basically satisfied, my only objection is timber mining and I am an exlogger.

Because there is not so many hunters.

Good elk population; good weather during archery season.

Timing and chances.

I believe the hunting experience can continue to be enjoyable with present big game populations.

As I stated before, no change is necessary. Please leave it as is.

I enjoy being out at that time of year and hearing the bulls.

Because it gives the average guy a chance to kill a bull the old fashioned way.

Yes, except I think there should be more elk in certain areas and more trophy size in certain areas.

Yes, except the weather has been too warm over the past few years.

A chance to hunt during the rut.

I am satisfied with the number and quality of elk I see when hunting.

Because it gives you a chance to use your instinct. It takes a better hunter.

A lot of game and you can hunt cow.

I had no problems finding elk or being bothered by other hunters.

Archery pressure does not seem to be hurting elk populations.

Because I have the freedom to hunt them when and where I choose.

Because of the amount of elk and few hunters.

Places where I hunt.

Yes, except a post season hunt would add significantly since they seemed to not be at all in the rut during season this year (in September season).

Yes, except I feel the elk population is down now compared to fifteen years ago.

I believe there are plenty of elk in the area I hunt.

It is exciting.

Because I think there is plenty of opportunity.

Can hunt during rut in most every district; nice weather.

Elk herds are managed quite well and at minimal cost. Winter range is in reduced amount, however, and could cause problems if we get a winter.

Season length and ability to hunt either sex elk or deer.

It allows you to hunt during the peak of the rut, thus a better chance to bag.

Adequate populations of animals; dual seasons (archery - gun); controlled vehicle access.

I always see plenty of elk and not too many hunters. Haven't gotten close enough yet!

It meets my needs.

Numbers have increased and hunter numbers are low.

Plenty of animals, and few hunters.

Good populations of elk; lots of good bulls; bugling season.

You can hunt in different terrain for them.

I like the length of the season. However, I don't know what results it's having on the game and land.

Lengthy season, coinciding with rut.

I would like to see more "closed roads" to get rid of the "slob hunters" or the less than serious hunters.

The animals aren't too spooky.

Because you have an opportunity to hunt them all and during bugling season.

If you are willing to work at it there is no reason you wouldn't have a chance to at least see some elk.

I had my chances at them quite a few times.

Gives me time on weekends for I don't have time during the week.

Shut off secondary roads during archery season, also.

Because I have no problems with hunting during archery now.

Archers are a small minority with at best a five percent success rate. I would hate to lose archery rights.

Because you can hunt elk while deer hunting.

Because you can shoot any sex.

It is one of the few things the state hasn't messed up.

Either sex and rut.

Great opportunity to hunt without a lot of other hunters around.

Opens early enough; allow hunting statewide vs. units; either sex and variety of game at same time.

It's exciting when you get a big bull elk roaring as it charges in.

Time of year and weather condition are the best - except for may be a late hunt.

Good populations of animals; not so many hunters.

Long, well-timed season; good action; not much red tape and regulations.

It is just great.

I see elk, I don't need to kill one.

It is a challenge to me and the weather is nice.

Because you can hunt either sex and it is during the rut.

I get out.

Seems to be an adequate amount of elk in the areas I generally hunt.

Elk are plentiful, bulls are bugling, and it is a great time of year to hunt.

Good time of year for local elk, if not too dry.

Yes, except low populations.

There is enough area to hunt.

Long season and hardly any hunters.

Everything seems good but maybe better bull/cow ratio.

I only live about seventy miles from the Missouri River Breaks.

Because I like getting out at that time of year and I really like archery hunting elk in the rut.

It gives a person a shot at the less spooky animal.

The timing of the season.

It hasn't become overrun with out of state bow hunters.

Northwest regions have good populations, except for large bulls.

Long seasons, good areas.

I don't feel there's that much pressure being put on elk, archery wise.

A person can find elk far back in where other hunter don't often go.

Good population.

The time of year; special hunts; opportunity to hunt deer; late season; special areas for archery.

I'm just starting and so far I have had pretty good luck.

I've always had good elk activity in my hunting.

No reason.

It's not the elk's fault I didn't get one yet.

Hunt during the rut.

Because I have had several good experiences even though I've never killed one with my bow.

Provides excellent hunting.

It allows people more time when they are very busy.

I enjoy it.

As a whole it's fair.

Season coincides with rutting. Would be nice to have more elk.

Less pressure on elk.

I enjoy hunting during bugling season.

It is still challenging and animals are usually seen.

Good population.

It is fine now but I feel it will be regulated too much in the near future.

Hunting's good during bugling season and long enough.

Plenty of game; road closures help; I see lots of nice bulls.

Not too many hunters and the elk herds seem to be increasing a little.

The area I hunt offers me a good chance for an elk.

Branch only in 322, good bulls are around. Area 340 gets hit too hard though.

Because it is too early. The meat will spoil.

I've only hunted a small number of times and every time I've seen elk.

Because there's not too many people hunting then.

There is ample time and elk are readily available if you persevere and have a little luck.

Hunting during the rut.

I like the challenge.

Because it gives me the opportunity to bugle and hear bulls respond.

It's based (archery or rifle) on people and not on what other states do.

I am satisfied with the present system, however, improvements can be made.

Not many hunters.

Generous season and opportunity to hunt rutting elk.

Long season; liberal bag limits.

Excellent chance to get a mature bull by means of bugling.

Because the bugling season is exciting. There's more action in archery season.

Road closures are helpful.

Anyone not happy with Montana hunting should try it in other states.

I don't feel that the areas I hunted are that crowded - seen lots of game.

The area I hunt treats me good - enough elk and not many people.

I think they have the seasons set right.

You can usually see game at any time and in most all areas.

It gives a person a chance to get out and enjoy Montana in the fall.

Timing of the season is good.

The season is long enough for many chances of getting game and is in a good time of year for hunting.

It is very challenging and a relaxing peaceful pasttime for me.

If a man works at the skills necessary.

The timing is right for rut and either sex provides for the meat hunter.

I like it.

I can take either sex elk.

Because it's fun.

The privilege to see the amount of animals in different areas.

Got closer to more elk this year than in other years.

Ample opportunities with minimum restrictions.

I've had good luck at finding elk during archery season and enjoy seeing them.

Yes, except number of animals seems fewer. there is less private land open to free hunting, and habitat in state - federal forests and corporate land is being reduced.

The excitement of being one on one with the elk and nature itself; also, less hunters in the field.

All hunters are provided opportunity to hunt with long enough seasons to avoid hunter congestion.

It's a challenging way to hunt, anybody can shoot elk with a

rifle.

Though I've had not kills yet, I have been in on bulls regularly.

There are more elk than ever before.

I have seen quite a few elk and the hunting pressure is tolerable.

Best time of the year to hunt elk.
There are quite a few hunting days and elk.

It's perfect.

Gain only hunted this year but did not run into any problems.

It is a good way to hunt.

Amount of time; either sex; you can also gun hunt; time of year.

It is a good length and laws are fair.

I feel the Fish and Wildlife practices of bad management is working - good game populations.

Because I have not got an elk yet.

The season is timed during the rut and before rifle season.

The branch antlered only law is a very effective law (I would like it to be statewide).

Managed well with the exception of some logging roads.

I have fun and there is a lot of elk to be hunted.

I would like to see more archery only areas; also, post season elk and mule deer hunting.

The season is in the best interest of the hunter and game alike.
Game is protected against rifle hunting during bugle season.

I have noticed an increase in elk numbers and have heard more bugling bulls.

Long season; during bugling season.

I have had several opportunities to take big bulls, cows, etc.

Population is good.

There are no restrictions to where you hunt.

They are just in rut. It's good at the end of the season.

Elk are easy to find.

It gives a person a chance to get a decent bull.

I see no problems with it.

The elk hunting is better, now there's more numbers, etc.
Thanks.

Elk are out there.

It gives all the people a chance to hunt.

It would be nice to see more big bulls, but it certainly isn't bad.

I always see and hear plenty of trophy animals.

I like the challenge and the season that archery season falls in.

Because taking an elk is fantastic and Montana lets you do it in the right ways.

Good season length; little competition.

Herds are in good condition.

I like the season but the closest area is messed up with grouse hunting even on the opening day. Couldn't you postpone grouse season at least one week?

Great opportunity to see a lot of game.

During bugle season; limited number of hunters; good weather.

Early season gives the hunter a good chance for game.

Because of the opportunity to see trophy size bulls.

Because there is a good population with some very big bulls.

I'm satisfied with quality of hunting, but would like to see incompetent, nonserious hunters eliminated.

Good healthy elk population.

Because there are lots of elk in Montana.

Because it includes the bugle season without over endangering the species (i.e. rifle).

This is the most rewarding time I spend in the mountains win,

lose or not.

Places to hunt.

I see elk and get shooting opportunities. Also I see few other hunters.

I see many more elk than during rifle season and I enjoy the ability to hunt many areas.

Time of year is good. Either sex works well.

Price of stamp.

Because it gives one a lot of time to bag an elk.

Nice weather and challenge.

Yes, except I think cow season should be closed to rifle and bow in 100, 101 and 110.

I think the season is right length, weather is right for hunting with bow, and game is not too spooky.

Because of all the hunting opportunities it provides and because current levels of bow hunters are low enough to allow less competition.

I like the time of year and amount of time.

I realize they are elusive and widespread.

It gives me plenty of opportunity to get some meat for my family.

It's a very exciting and challenging aspect of hunting that totally is yours.

Because there is all the opportunity in the world to get one, no excuses.

Abundance of animals.

The elk are in fall rut.

It allows me to be in the woods when they are bugling. I love to hear them.

I am not happy about the landowner situation but for the most part this is still the best state to hunt.

I have taken several elk with my bow.

Not very many taken out.

Good time of year; rut season.

For the most part, I think we could have an early or late season deer hunt.

Adequate hunting for elk and deer.

Time of season coincides with elk bugling season.

I've only hunted for three years and now I think it is very challenging.

You have the chance to bugle them in.

Well there is quite a lot of elk.

Yes, enough area for hunter to spread out. There's no overcrowdedness.

It seems to me that most archery hunters I meet in the woods are satisfied and enjoying it the way it is now.

It provides a good opportunity for all ages and income levels and is a good time of year.

Because there is enough elk in the right spots, and not everybody gets one.

Good populations, reasonable season, few regulations - keep it that way.

There is still a challenge.

I like the freedom to hunt various game all over the state.

Because it is still a difficult sport for me and a challenge. I am still quite satisfied as is!

Yes, except would like to see bigger bulls again.

In general, I am pleased. However, I would like to see a decrease in rifle pressure during the rut, especially in the Bob Marshall complex!

I see elk and I have my chances to shoot.

Not too many restrictions; length of season.

Hunting opportunity in Montana is better than all other states.

Because we have a good opportunity to kill an elk in Montana. The herd is in good shape and we have plenty of season.

Allowed to hunt during the rut.

It is early enough to bugle for elk and the weather is a factor.

It gives me great satisfaction to bulge elk in close, as of now not close enough!

It allows me to hunt during rut.

Yes, except not enough game.

Bugling, and at least seeing elk, earlier than general season.

There's elk out there in substantial numbers with trophy bulls if you look hard.

Plenty of game - just got to out smart them.

There seems to be an increase in the elk population in most areas I hunt.

Availability of elk is good and the season is timed well.

The bugle season increase the odds of taking a bull.

I enjoy the challenging part, and love hearing elk bugle.

I see a lot more game and have more challenge to get close for a kill.

During rifle season most elk are inaccessible into Idaho, into parks, private ranches, and private preserves.

Bugle season is exciting and for me trophy is not a requirement. There still is a lot of big bulls here, and matching wits with one is a good challenge.

Good opportunity to see animals.

Yes, except would like to see more private land available to hunters.

Although I've never got a shot at one yet.

Yes, except there are too many hunters that either just buy or don't practice before hunting.

Because the amount of elk to hunter ratio seems good.

In my area there's plenty of game to hunt. Just being lucky is the trick!

Because there is enough elk if you want to work for them.

There are plenty of elk where a hunt and the early season allows me to reach them fairly easy.

I feel it should be more of a challenge. It keeps the people who aren't serious out of it.

I think it's getting a bit better for elk.

Able to hunt both sexes, it gives you a better chance.

Because of the ability to purchase an archery stamp without a drawing.

Because although I have not yet killed one, I've come close.

Yes, except elk numbers are low in some areas.

We can hunt in areas where only special drawing is available for rifle hunting.

Elk population is good, and hunting has been successful until this year (1987).

At least I see elk and get fairly close. Hardly ever see elk while gun hunting.

Fair amount of game; not too many hunters.

Love it!

Yes, except I would like to see elk populations grow.

Because of the separate bow season and the length of time in which to hunt.

I've had what I call personal success and never filled an elk tag.

Good numbers of animals and long season provide good chance for good bow hunter to be successful.

Yes, I love to get out and bugle for elk. Archery is a good sport.

Allows hunting during the entire rut.

Yes, except one area 284, I feel the late archery should include cows also.

Because I like the outdoors.

Status quo works.

Some very good areas and not much pressure.

Yes, except I don't think it's fair to hunt rifles in Bob

Marshall in archery season.

Because it is a challenge.

Elk herds are good in numbers.

I feel there is great opportunity for everyone that is willing to be persistent.

I don't know much about elk hunting because I haven't ever hunted them.

Live close to the hunting.

No restrictions on hunting areas.

I enjoy getting out when the elk are bugling.

Early bugle season; either sex; increasing elk herds.

Elk populations are good; season is open at the right time.

At this time I am satisfied, but I think that in the future bugling and calling may have to be restricted in some areas.

Where I hunt population in good hunting pressure is low.

Adequate game; low pressure.

The numbers of elk appear to be increasing.

Because it's a challenge.

Can hunt either sex during the season.

There seems to be plenty of elk. They are hard to get a shot at.

They are where you find them.

I like it just the way it is.

There are plenty of elk to hunt.

Because I don't believe archery hunters have hurt the elk population yet.

Because you can hunt without having to apply for a permit.

I hunt during the week and see very few other hunters.

It's a good time to be out, in and around game.

It seems fair with the exception of bird season overlapping.

Good elk population.

Uncomplicated and inexpensive.

I'm sixty-two years old. It gives me a time when I get out in good weather.

I always see elk when I am hunting.

Every year I've had a chance at an elk.

Yes, except increased bugling pressure seems to have affected animal response.

Easy to get to.

I have only hunted one season. I saw elk and learned some things that may get me closer next season.

Reasonable number of elk taken; could be larger population of animals though.

I found adequate numbers of animals where I hunt.

If an area is found with a decent elk population; some areas are poor.

Excellent opportunity and timing due to rut herd.
Few hunters; challenging terrain; unharassed bulls; and I'll trust you to keep the answer to question four a secret (hunting districts hunted).

Excellent opportunity for game bugling and enjoying the season.

Season is right time and length; see plenty of game.

Nice time of year; see lots of game; enjoy bulls bugling; less hunters.

Because of the either sex limit.

Saw plenty of game.

It meets my needs and wants for 1987 year.

Many reasons, mostly to get out and see nature at a very nice time of year.

It gives the opportunity to hunt bulls during rut.

Provides opportunity to hunt cow elk.

It gives you a challenge.

I see a lot of elk and I hunt just for fun, if I never shoot one

it's fine.

I feel we have prime hunting.

Because Montana is a good place to hunt and there's a lot of animals to hunt.

Allows a person to hunt either sex.

Because of the branch antlered program.

It's during the rut!

It is the best state as far as I'm concerned to hunt elk in the U.S.A.

Because I'd just as soon leave things the way they are. When Fish and Game worry about hunter success I bet hunting fees go up.

There are a lot of elk - either sex.

Yes, except I feel it is getting a little crowded in some areas.

They are there if you are good enough to find them.

You are in lots of game.

I see plenty of elk.

Lots of elk per hunter.

Great country; nice weather. I can find solitude if i want, and I can get opportunities at elk if I work hard enough.

It allows me to hunt 401 which is only a few miles away.

I like the long hunting season.

Trophy size elk.

Top quality - good population.

Yes, except better not close off the rest of CMR.

Yes, except it would be nice to have more big bulls.

I feel it is a great opportunity to get at the elk first.

I enjoy hunting that time of year.

Yes, except would like to see required choice - bow or gun.

I only say yes in hopes of archery elk hunting improving,

otherwise no.

You need to buy more land for habitat and winter range.

I feel there are plenty of elk and access to elk hunting.

Yes, except people should be able to pass a test that is needed, also only Montana residents should be able to bow hunt.

Yes, except for closing areas 621 and 623.

Yes, except that I like to hunt both sides of the Missouri River without having to draw for the north side portion.

It provides a challenge.

It gives me a chance to improve my hunting skills.

Branch antlered seasons are producing more good bulls in "my" areas.

Game seems plentiful; could use bigger herds.

There are lots of elk where I hunt.

We see plenty of animals.

Plenty of elk; good bull to cow ratio.

Because it is still a big challenge to get an elk.

Great outdoors.

I like to hunt during the rut. It gives me a chance to exercise other skills.

I see more bulls than in rifle season.

Considering the number of elk, I feel it's all pretty fair.

Because there are so many choices of places to hunt.

Because I love bugling elk.

Weather.

The season is long enough to allow everyone to hunt at some time.

There is plenty of elk.

If you have the time and ambition, your chances of getting into elk are good.

Got very close on several occasions but did not get to take a

shot. Saw lots of elk.

There seems to be a lot less regulations during archery season.

It is fun trying to bugle them in.

Good game numbers; good amount of national forest.

By going to different areas.

First year in four years and I haven't gotten an elk.

Because it gives an archer a chance at a cow elk without drawing one.

There seems to be ample elk if you pack in off roads.

Because of being able to hunt elk during bugling time or season.

The flexibility it offers a person with limited free time.
There seems to be an increasing amount of trophy size bulls and it's enjoyable just to see them.

There are many animals and a choice of either sex.

Lots of elk; lots of good weather and chance to hunt the rut statewide.

It offers a challenging reward!

There is plenty of big game if you know where they are.

I had my chance but missed a nice bull.

There are a lot of opportunities to get nice bulls if you work at it.

It allows for a hunt during the rut, the most satisfying and fulfilling hunting season.

I have made elk bulges for the past forty-six years. I like to experiment in the field under real hunting conditions.

I enjoy it.

See lot of game; it's a challenge.

Because it's fun to try to out smart the animals, and I know it will be exciting when I shoot my first.

I think it is the best hunting where we live.

I see more animals.

Offers the outdoor oriented people an opportunity to partake of our wilds during a nice time of year with little impact on game.

There's plenty of game where I hunt, enough out to support large populations.

I get to hunt elk during their rut.

Because I believe there is a great number of elk and the ratio of animals to hunters is very small during bow season compared to gun season.

The challenge of hunting elk with a bow is very satisfying.

A good challenge is there.

The season is during the rut. The elk populations are out there.

It's uncrowded and very peaceful. I see elk on almost every hunt and I see a lot of trophy bulls.

Because of the time of year (Sept. 7 - Oct. 15); and the Fish and Game is finally closing roads to all vehicles which makes better hunting.

The dates are good. I would like to see the "overnight" or "instant" bow hunters eliminated.

The elk generally come into the rut this time of year.

There remains ample opportunity for a true wilderness hunting experience.

Plenty of elk, long season, either sex.

It meet most of my personal expectations.

Plenty of elk.

In five years I have taken two bulls. My only complaint is nonserious hunters are out.

Yes, except elk should be more widespread and in higher numbers.

It gives the average hunter a better chance to get an elk.

People get away from town or the city for a while to enjoy themselves.

The season dates and the number of elk seen during the archery season.

Because there is a big population.

The season is at the right time of the year and is long enough to have a good season.

There are a lot of elk to hunt.

I can hunt where I want and when I want.

Because it allows archery hunters to hunt during the rut.

I believe we have a good season and it is excellent for senior citizens.

If you hunt hard enough you can usually get an elk in bow season.

Low hunter pressure (mostly); fair amount of animals.

It is important to have the opportunity to hunt during the rut.

Most people hunt deer and there are not too many elk hunters.

Suggest propaganda to persuade hunters to be "great" sportsmen and shoot only when a good hit is probable.

We have more elk today than twenty years ago.

There are plenty of animals to be hunted and there is a lot of room to do so.

I did not encounter any problems. I regretted to see the amount of ATV use in my hunting areas.

Because in my area I can hunt either sex. Also the season is on during bugling season.

Yes, except in some of the better known areas (like mine), it is becoming too crowded.

It gives us a chance at elk while they are in the rut.

I and my hunting partners enjoy good success ratios and see a lot of game and nice country.

I don't have any ideas for making it better.

It gives the hunter and the game a chance.

I have had five big bulls come in to me this last year. What more does a guy want.

It's not too expensive to enjoy being out with a chance at game.

I would like to see a post season hunt!

I see lots of elk and enjoy stalking them.

Opportunities generally are good, though I have yet to get a shot off at anything.

Right time of year and length of season; able to go after either sex.

Because I just like to get out and I only hunt trophies.

They are so elusive.

Time corresponds very well with the rutting season.

Long season, during rut.

Good elk numbers; time of year.

Game is there to hunt but access even to public ground is not always there.

Yes, except populations are a little low in some areas.

The season gives you a chance to hunt elk before rifle season opens.

Because it allows me to have more fun in the mountains!

First year.

I think so; I'm fairly new at archery hunting for elk.

I feel every archery hunter has equal access to good elk hunting.

The competition between the elk and myself is satisfying.

As long as I can bugle elk, I am satisfied.

Yes, except for the closure of area 324 for bow hunting.

Possibilities are greater to obtain a cow elk especially for meat reasons.

I enjoy being able to be in the woods during the early fall.

Even though I haven't killed one with my bow, the sound of them bugling is worth it.

Nice time of year and no other hunters.

Because it's fun.

If a person works hard and is persistent, the rewards are great.

It gives me a chance to stalk elk that haven't been spooked and

shot at by rifle hunters. Also, it's great to match wits during
bugle season.
Length of season; can hunt different areas.

There are plenty of elk and the hunting pressure is minimal.

I like being able to bugle elk.

Because it allows me to hunt during the elk rutting season.

Earlier season.

Yes, except I think too many areas are permit only.

More time to hunt, a nice time of year, and calling elk.

1) Because I know I don't have to take a bad shot; 2) I can fall
back on rifle season!

Yes, except would like to see our herd size increase.

At this time the season is adequate and the elk numbers are up.

Because there's enough elk.

Because I didn't see any other hunters!

Overall hunting is good and population seems to be on level and
not on decline.

No reason, just satisfied.

Because there are a lot of elk around the state.

Plenty of elk.

I always see elk in bow season.

There are lots of elk being killed, but there is still an
abundant amount.

Yes, because every time I went out this season I saw deer or elk.

The weather, mountains, and fresh air all make hunting of any
kind enjoyable.

Because here in Dillon there aren't very many hunters around.

They are out there. It's up to my ability if I fill my tag.

I can hunt statewide.

There exists a large population of elk.

You have the choice of either sex although I generally hunt

branch bulls.

Limited pressure and good game populations.

I love the excitement in the sport. I like to hunt with the rifle but not as much as with a bow.

Extremely challenging.

The quality of the hunt is in the hunters hands.

I enjoy a solitary hunt, and like being in the woods when elk are so active.

Solitude, good opportunity for success, relatively few hunters, affordable cost.

Light hunting pressure, good opportunity for success, therapeutic freedom, cost, love of uncrowded outdoors.

Yes, except for bird hunters and their noise.

Either sex, long season; can use special permits (B tags)

Length and time of season is just right.

Lot less hunting pressure.

Numbers are on the increase and there are more big bulls.

Yes, except could be longer.

They are plentiful.

I hunt hard and away from roads so I see a lot of elk and usually get into them.

Bugle season, weather, either sex.

Season time is good.

Uncrowded; early season allows access into backcountry areas.

I don't care if I kill an elk with the bow or not.

I feel that the elk hunting in the districts I hunt is very good.

Because I was able to be within twenty yards of elk and it was a big thrill.

Long archery season, good elk numbers, season is during the rut.

It gives a hunter a chance to hunt anywhere in the state.

A hunter has a good chance to at least see an elk.

There is enough time to hunt them and the opportunity to hunt more than one district.

I hunt at Fort Peck in late season; the pressure is light and there's plenty of game.

Seems to be a good number of animals and they are difficult to harvest.

I see and hear a lot of elk.

Lots of areas to hunt.

Because I can hunt during bugle season when the weather is warm.

There is ample game and having areas with either sex legal is helpful.

Because there is population increase due to planting.

There are plenty of animals if you work hard. There are getting to be more mature bulls.

It provides a fair opportunity without harming any other types of hunters.

Because I see more game and they are less spooky.

The season is timed right; populations are good; all areas are open; and there's no restrictions on sex.

I can think of nothing I am displeased with concerning elk archery hunting in Montana.

Most places that I have hunted, the times I have hunted these areas, I have yet to come across any other hunters.

Because there are a lot of elk in Montana.

Quality hunt, accessible to two wheelers and reasonable walk in hunts, during rut.

See more elk than in general season.

Ample time, good hunting.

I see substantial numbers of elk and have shooting opportunities.

It's fine.

Long season, nice time of year.

Unlimited elk tag for 622, 623, and 621; Have cut down numbers

of nonserious archers.

There's plenty of elk; good habitat; and there are not too many hunters out in the field.

I am encouraged by branch antlered bulls. Requirement allows more branched animals next year.

I am always near elk in the area I hunt.

Good populations and scattered herds in varied habitat; fair access to hunt areas.

Many opportunities to shoot where we hunt.

Good trips, but have had to work some together away from other hunters.

I have seen elk each time I've gone with a bow.

Laws are good now. We do not need any foolish changes.

I have plenty of time to hunt and I can hunt either sex.

There are ample opportunities.

The herd is on the increase and archery provides the time and challenge.

Fewer hunters that rifle season.

During the right time of the year, bugling, rut, etc.

It's a fun time to hunt elk; they are bugling.
Open access to land is good for all (public land). Elk numbers are up from six years ago.

It's a great, challenging sport. I frequently see elk though I have not killed one.

The numbers of elk are up.

You have to be dedicated.

The increasing number of elk in our area - have hunted this area for twenty-one years.

It's good.

It's close by.

It allows me to get a closer look and at the same time I have the opportunity of scoring a big game animal.

Yes, except I would like to see more closed roads.

Low impact hunting areas are accessible for serious hunters.

Good time.

Because there is not a lot of pressure and you don't have to worry about some out of stater shooting you at long range.

It gives me more time to hunt along with rifle season.

It gives me more time to hunt.

Plenty of elk - I only trophy hunt.

There are enough elk. They are just a challenge to get.

Time of year, fewer hunters, more challenge.

Yes, since the bulls in our area generally do not bugle until later in the season when the temperature drops down.

Good animal populations.

It comes at just the right time.

Because the rut is generally on and it's either sex.

Because of the sufficient numbers of bugling elk available.

I see a lot of game, and a lot of bulls which I don't see as often, if at all, during the general season.

Superlatives cannot describe the many experiences one has while being quietly part of nature during bugling season.

The chance of getting a trophy elk.

I feel the state offers the best opportunity to enjoy over a month of elk bow hunting.

Because it's not as restricted as other states.

The season falls when the elk are in the rut which makes them most active.

Not enough people archery hunt to make a difference in elk populations.

The less restrictions we have and still maintain a good herd, the better.

Have seen and bugled man elk; season length is excellent.

I enjoy the early outing and the lengthened hunting season.

I see a lot of elk and really enjoy the challenge.

It is very challenging.

I am primarily interested in the meat.

There is a good number of elk around.

Good hunting opportunities.

It works.

Game management programs, especially branch antler restrictions.

There is a greater opportunity to see more elk, get closer to them, and there is less hunting pressure.

Good seasons, long, handy to where I live.

Good game opportunities, either sex.

Have experienced no major problems.

It is either sex, and during the rut.

Ample opportunity, see quite a lot of game.

Game is plentiful; national forest is accessible (vast).

Not very many people hunt where I do.

Good time of year for scouting and scenery. Can do it by yourself.

Good opportunity to fill tag (time of year).

The season, either sex, areas are all good.

Season length, no drawing for permit, excellent habitat in many areas, time of year for hunting season.

I mainly hunt at Fort Peck. I like the permit system there.

There's no need for a permit deal.

Being able to hunt while they are bugling, and taking either sex.

Little congestion from other hunters. This past season I saw one 6x7, a 350 point plus bull, and several large trophy class bulls.

Because there is a lot more elk in the areas because of the road closures.

First year.

I have a good opportunity to see animals and "hunt" - not necessarily take an animal.

The early season provides time to hunt the rut.

Bugling season.

Adequate opportunities to stalk mature bulls.

I have not killed any but did get into them.

I do see elk and have fun trying to get a shot.

It's very difficult and challenging. Advantage is all with the elk. Doesn't dent the population a bit.

I live in the perfect spot. There are not too many out of area hunters around here.

Game isn't spooked during early season and weather is more favorable.

Yes, except I don't like the sound of guns during the season.

The season covers the rut. There are plenty of elk.

I feel western Montana has little or no problems the way the season is now.

Adequate time because of season length.

It's during rut.

Lots of elk country to hunt in.

It allows either sex.

I believe that a serious hunter can bag his game if they are in the right area.

There is a good number of animals and the only problem is too many archers.

Just to get to see them.

The branch antler requirement increased the number of bulls; road closings.

Not as crowded as rifle season.

I see lots of game and that matters more than bagging an animal.

Very abundant populations; season coincides with rut.

More sightings, less people, private property access easier.

Because it allows me to spend more time in the mountains.

The season is during the bugling and there are great herd counts.

We have the finest areas in the world and the season covers the nicest time of year and rutting season.

It's good.

You see a lot of game.

Because it gives me a challenge.

I have noticed an increase in numbers of elk I get close to in 311 and 301 over past ten years.

I got a bull elk during the 1986 season.

I enjoy it the way it is. No changes are needed.

It is when you see the most elk.

It's tough but possible to see and get your game.

Be good and skillful, a shot you may get, take it if you are sure, don't miss a bad hit, don't be a danger to others.

There seems to be plenty of time and no significant impact of elk populations.

It's a good time to be in the field and offers an excellent challenge.

It is set up well, and I'm used to it.

Better odds of getting our winter meat supply.

In general, it gives more hunting days to a person who wants to hunt.

Have not hunted elk as yet.

Because I consistently kill game.

I just like to hunt; archery allows me to hunt trophies.

I like hunting during the bugling season. It's quite a challenge.

Good population.

Because cows can be taken also.

Because I see more game and less hunters.

I saw a lot of elk but I didn't get close enough to get a good shot.

Because I can hunt almost anywhere in Montana and shoot either sex.

I think that seeing elk is good enough!

A smart hunter sees a lot of big game.

I only hunt for deer.

Often I see elk, which is nice.

I hunt the Missouri Breaks by Fort Peck and no there are less people and better hunters.

I see elk almost every time I go.

The elk numbers are good. I am somewhat concerned about the numbers of trophy bulls.

Because it's either sex and it is not on a drawing.

Yes, except season is too short.

It is a challenging hobby.

It is a great time of year, and it is either sex for the people who really need the meat.

Time of year, either sex.

Not a whole lot of people yet to hunt elk because of drawing.

Season length, herd size and quality.

The current laws and system is good for archery hunting. Leave it alone.

I think there are more elk now and they are more distributed.

Overall I think it's okay.

The possibility is there to take an elk.

Good population; pressure is not real heavy.

Because you can bugle them in.

I would rather see no changes and say I'm happy than some drastic

changes.

Just the enjoyment of getting out.

Still see game and enjoy outdoors; success depends on work.

Montana has beautiful scenery.

Either sex choice is important because success rate is so low.

Because there's a variety of places to hunt and management is good.

Yes, except, don't change any districts as far as permit drawings are concerned.

Great time of year; chances are better to score.

Because we're allowed to hunt 405 and other such areas where you can't during rifle season.

I see my share of elk.

Lots of exercise.

It's enjoyable to just get out and try and get an extremely good shot.

We always see elk and bugle them in.

Having fun doing it is success to me.

Because I see plenty of game that time of year.

Not so many people - quiet.

You can enjoy it. You can get out hunting and scouting early. There's not so many people.

It keep more out of state hunters away until rifle season.

Got more of a chance.

Lots of game in my area.

There's plenty of elk to hunt.

Yes, except I would like to see a late season so I would have more time to hunt. (Work slows down in December).

Like the challenge.

The season is long enough and the animals are there.

I don't hunt elk with a bow.

Good season, good timing.

I feel I have a good chance for a big bull here.
Good opportunity; more elk in the last two years, especially in area 328.

Less competition, liberal seasons, good weather, hunt during rut,
I see more game.

The season is right.

The elk are there if you are willing to work hard enough.

You have to be pretty "hardcore".

No other experience.

Well timed season; breaks up herds prior to rifle season.

Because no one has messed with it in twenty years.

Best sport ever, very challenging, allows solitude.

Good quality experience.

Yes, except land access; it's tough to get on land!

Lots of elk.

It is the right time of the year to hunt elk with bow.

Because we don't need more closed areas and increases in license fees.

Yes, many elk - easier to find (bugling) than in rifle season.

I like to get out.

Fun.

It's a good time of year to hunt and there's a lot of elk.
I have found it to be a most satisfying time, only wish I'd started younger.

Because it's either sex and it's not on a drawing basis.

Satisfied that I see plenty of animals; not satisfied because they are smarter than me.

It serves my needs.

Lots of time to hunt.

I'm satisfied with the way the season is now.

I always see more elk during the bow season than in the general season.

I have had no bad experiences therefore no dissatisfaction.

I usually see elk when hunting with a bow.

Because the number of hunters is low during bow season.

They don't get too spooked.

Plenty of action.

Less pressure.

Chances (if any) are very good at this time of year.

Contrary to what you tourists think there are as many big bulls as there always has been.

I enjoy the outdoors. I am just beginning and have never shot at an elk yet.

I have seen game but decided not to shoot numerous cows and small bulls.

It is long enough.

Length, rut advantage, weather conditions are all ideal.

Yes, except for the CMR.

Because I knew where the elk were, just couldn't hit one.

Primary food source.

It's extremely hard hunting and I enjoy hard work.

It is easy to find elk in many places.

Because I like a challenge.

I see plenty of elk.

It hasn't been reviewed or screwed up by government offices yet.

Access seems okay; there are good opportunities.

"Except" in drawing areas; if a person is successful in drawing they should be ineligible the following year in that district, such as the Fort Peck area.

I like being in the woods that time of year.

If you work hard enough there are elk to be found.

Because of either sex law.

It's a challenge.

It is the right time of the year.

See more game - more times

There are some areas that are turning to management for trophy animals.

I feel the main reason is being able to bugle during the mating

season.

I am with me, but the animals that are shot each year are not found by bad shots.

Yes, except areas 380 needs to be open to branch antlered elk.

It's easier than rifle hunting for elk; bugling make it too easy.

Adequate time if the facilities are available.

Less people - still too many but it's better than rifle season.

Best hunting in the world.

The districts I hunt in are great.

Hunting the breeding season is the best thing going - what a thrill!

Because it is the best time to hunt elk.

I hunt for fun and getting an elk is not that important.

Wide open hunting available.

I only hunt elk during archery season due to lack of people in the field and access to public lands is better then.

It's a way to get away by yourself.

It is challenging and exciting to the hunter.

Season length is adequate to give an archer a reasonable chance. Hunting with a bow during the rut.

Long season, few hunters, nice weather, lots of game, lots of country.

Open about everywhere.

It is in the rut season which is good.

There are a lot of elk around Beaverhead county and a little luck helps to get one.

We have a place for archers to hunt without rifle hunters interfering.

Yes, except for limiting access.

Time of year; being able to hunt during the rut.

It provides a good challenge.

There is lots of elk in the Highwoods, but they're hard to find.

Good access to most hunting areas.

Because you have adequate opportunity to get elk.

The season is long and it goes through the rut.

It works for me.

Every year I have had opportunities or "near" opportunities to take an elk by archery.

The early season allows me to be out at the most exciting part of elk season, the rut.

The laws are equitable and fair.

There aren't that many hunters in my area and it's easier to get an animal.

Too much habitat is trashed with roads from logging; more land should be in preserve with no hunting allowed.

We seem to always be able to see elk when we hunt.

Because there's a lot of elk around.

Yes, because of the challenge.

It's a good season.

From what other states have, no one can complain.

There's plenty of elk right now.

The season allows calling and hunting of elk that are unspooked by guns.

Long season, good weather, the rut.

I've had good luck finding the elk. They never were that spooked.

There is a lot of elk out there.

You are able to see more animals and capture their beauty as it is in the rut.

We seem to have a decent bull/cow ratio in district 100.

I have seen lots of animals, but was unable to kill because of my fault.

Because you do not have to draw out.

Challenging but possible.

Yes, except I'm hearing about too many wounded animal (too long of shots).
Because changes benefit some and hurt others.

I get to hunt the rut which gives me a better chance. I love to be there when they bugle.

There is an ample amount of elk. They require work to find which discourages the less serious hunter.

Almost got run over by numerous bulls.

The opportunity to hunt either sex and the chance to try to bugle elk.

I had the opportunity to take two mature bulls - that's plenty.

Because I have seen a lot of elk.

The game seems to be plentiful. It's open for either sex.

It's nice to be able to hunt during the rut.

Time of year.

It gives the game a better chance and is more sporty.

It provides a less "congested" way of hunting.

The elk are there. You just have to out smart them.

It's what you make it yourself.

Because you can bugle.

I enjoy our archery season and archery elk hunting because we have such a variety of seasons and different hunting opportunities; flat land, hills and rugged mountains.

It's getting harder to get away from growing numbers, but it adds to the challenge.
As it now is without more change.

It's at a nice time of the year and you can also fish.

The first time I shot at an elk in my life was exciting.

I believe it is great. Leave it alone.

The areas are open to bow hunting.

Because people are allowed to move to different areas and hunt.

There's plenty of elk and plenty of area to hunt.

The opportunity is sufficient.

It provided me with a challenge.

Early bugling season is the only edge an archer has.

Because it gives me time to hunt where I want.

Yes, I think it's set up as fair as possible.

I haven't hunted exclusively for elk with a bow but elk hunting seems to be good.

The accessibility and availability of elk.

I see plenty of elk during bow season.

Good elk herds are available for those willing to work for them, not pay or draw a permit for the privilege.

There is a good amount of elk and they are growing in numbers.

It offers a chance to pack back into the wilderness, find elk, and usually not see anyone else.

The size and quantity of elk is just right.

Long season with plenty of opportunity to hunt everywhere.

Because it's quick and simple to do.

Real good management.

Good population.

Again, the clean air, beautiful mountains, assorted wildlife, but where are the elk!

Lots of elk.

We have a good long season and plenty of area.

Yes, except I would like to see it open a little sooner.

I hunt in 380 and they are trying to get bigger bulls.

It provides good opportunity to get out and pursue elk without the crowds.

Long seasons with the freedom to choose any hunting district.

There's plenty of time due to length of season; few people.

Large challenge.

Adequate opportunity.

I see a lot of elk.

It's enjoyable to be out of doors in the fall.

I've just begun the sport recently and found it to be a good experience.

There's not as many people and you can shoot either sex.

I have seen more big bulls and stronger herds than ever before.

I always see plenty of elk, usually enough big bulls to be happy.

There are a lot of elk.

There seems to be plenty of game where I go.

Game is not easy to find, but any serious hunter can at least get a shot in a weekend or two.

I see plenty of game and enjoy the season.

Time of year.

It gives me an opportunity to hunt the way I like.

Yes, except I would like to be able to shoot spikes.

Had ample opportunity; saw few hunters.

I have seen elk nearly every time I went archery elk hunting.

Yes, I don't have to compete with outfitters.

I enjoy the length of season but would like to see it one week longer and gun season one week shorter.

It gives me a chance for preseason scouting.

At least you get to see them.

Very challenging.

I like being able to hunt any elk district for elk during archery season.

I usually see a lot of game, preparing me for the rifle season when the weather is more conducive to killing game.

Each time we went out we found elk and few hunters.

I like the time of year for the season and the numbers of elk I find.

The game population is good and access is good to areas.

Yes, except more post seasons in certain areas would be nice.

I just love to hunt.

It coincides with the rut.

I enjoy choice of area and gender.

I enjoy hunting elk. The current rules seem to work just fine.

I always see game.

It's a good season. There could be a late season after rifle, though.

If the weather cooperates, the elk hunting in Montana is as good as anywhere.

Good opportunity to see elk before rifle season.

Season opens early enough to hunt in rut. I can hunt with a rifle if I don't get one.

It seems to be a working system.

I like to be able to hunt during the rut.

Because they are somewhat accessible and haven't been hunted and/or chased too much at this time!
No people, or very few; with the exception of 1987 season, the amount of animals seen.

There are some nice areas to hunt elk in Montana.

It is a very good chance to get into the mountains and hunt with success.

Because it's early in the year and we have lots of time to hunt.

An archer can move from area to area if there are too few elk or too many archers.

A hunter usually will get to see elk during archery season (not so during rifle season).

Living in the middle of elk country I have no problems.

Less hunters in the district. I find plenty of elk.

Yes, except as long as there can be an open late season hunt.

Most landowners will allow bow hunting but as more bow hunters emerge I expect this to change.

Yes, except would like to see less hunters.

Season length, less crowded than rifle season.

Because I can get out when the elk are bugling and the weather is bearable just being in the field.

Little or no competition provides easy access to animals that are relatively calm.

The elk is a hard animal to hunt and it increases the safety and ways to hunt.

I guess because this is the first year I went elk hunting and I bagged a nice bull.

Because the elk are out there if you can get them.

Because it is the same every year.

Good opportunity, either sex option.

Love to hunt.

Because I saw some.

Right time, either sex, season is long enough, and minimal bureaucratic requirements.

Good herds.

We have plenty of game and land to hunt on (Forest Service).

Many good areas, long season, good population density of animals.

Because it is either sex and the sighting of elk seems more common.

I have enjoyed every day I went out.

I think our elk herds are well managed. We have a generous season and lots of room to hunt.

It's a challenge to hunt (stalk) the game.

There are plenty of animals to hunt.

I have been close, but never able to get a good shot.

Yes, except the only thing I dislike is when landowners lease their land or make you pay to hunt. There's just not enough "good" hunting areas left.

It gives a person a chance to get close to elk in the rut and before the general hunting starts.
Low hunting pressure with either sex.

Yes, I saw many cow elk, however neither my hunting partners nor I saw any bulls.

Yes, except I don't understand the sudden change for quality bulls. I think quantity is better for hunting.

Because I fought for years to get archery elk hunting in Montana.

Many opportunities to hunt in my area; a good opportunity to bag any sex.

It's tough enough to be good for serious hunters, but still accessible to us amateurs.

The challenge and exercise.

Very challenging sport.

Numerous areas to hunt, plenty of animals.

Good populations, many large bulls.

Any improvement is always welcomed.

There is a lot of elk out there and nice country to hunt in.

The game is there and huntable.

I think there are more elk and fewer hunters in Montana.

Can generally hunt the areas of personal preference.

I like the early season so people have a chance to bugle one.

I can hunt close to where I live and not worry about if the area is closed to permit only.

It is a challenge to bugle in the elk.

To get out - see elk - get the opportunity to take one.

Because I can go close to home and I'm not rich.

The opportunities are great if you have the want.

Yes, except I would like to see less bow hunters.

Good populations and either sex hunting.

I have a close area and it is easy to hunt. Cost is minimal.

Generally there are enough different areas to hunt elk on Forest Service lands.

There are plenty of elk and open areas to hunt.

Length of season decreases pressure.

Don't screw with it if it works.

I feel where I hunt in the CMR refuge the elk hunting is excellent, but it can become crowded at times.

Getting out and having the opportunity to see game is gratifying enough.

It provides recreation and does not appear harmful to herd stability.

Less people, more challenging, seem to see more game.

One still has an opportunity to hunt elk in good numbers and in several areas.

Yes, except there has been a tremendous increase in hunter population in the last four years.
First year for doing it so I don't have a lot of knowledge.

The weather (usually), the bugling season, and the quietness of the woods.

Montana has the finest elk archery opportunity available.

Great sport and challenge of yourself.

It's easier to gain permission to hunt. Feel free to hunt.

I enjoy the freedom, season, and feeling of being on my own.

It's another way to enjoy the outdoors Montana has to offer.

Because you can hunt elk in drawing areas.

It coincides with the rut.

Season length is adequate, either sex option is great, good opportunities.

We own and have access to good elk land.

Time of season is good; either sex is good.

Number of animals and the access.

This year was a bad year - is what I have heard.

It proves challenging.

Season runs with elk rut.

I see elk everytime I go hunting and that is what it's all about.

Game is still ample, but access and available land is questionable.

I really like it because of the bugle season.

Good prospects on CMR especially.

It would be very difficult to locate elk without bugling.

Weather is good and elk are in the rut. Bugling is good.

Ample opportunity to hunt close to home.

Elk are abundant and a challenge.

Yes, except why is area 324 still closed to archery?

The challenge of getting close to the game.

Yes, because each hunt is a different challenge.

Elk are hard to hunt and it makes it more of a challenge.

Because you can shoot either sex in most areas.

Where I hunt everything is okay except for poor access.

An early start and a nice long season.

It's a great time of the year.

No problems hunting.

Good populations.

Provides many hours of recreation.

Season, areas, access, game.

I just like to be out there in the mild life.

It is an enjoyable way and a challenge.

There's a lot of elk and they're not as spooky.

Lots of animals, few hunters.

Little hunting pressure.

During the rut.

I am still able to find quality hunts.

Because there are a lot of animals.

Yes, except access to some areas is limited.

I feel that the elk are plentiful.

I think it's just perfect.

Because it involves hard work, and a good test of your hunting skills.

There seems to be a lot of bugling elk around.

Why change a good thing?

Hunting pressure is not heavy. One can hunt either sex and the season is at the right time.

Kill me an elk.

With five to six week seasons hunting pressure is kept to a minimum or more even pressure is achieved.

I usually saw elk every time I went out.

I like the outdoors.

Because I can be to hunting territory in less than an hour.

It seems that I see more elk each year.

I like season lengths and different types of areas to hunt.

Hunting is excellent in some areas.

Gives good opportunity to bag your game.

I see elk and minimal hunters.

At present there is plenty of animals and the challenge is good.

There is an abundance of game.

Large elk population and few hunters.

Best in the world.

The opportunities are present if one has the desire.

The challenge of bow hunting.

Because you really have to know what to do to get them.

Allows me to hunt the rut and there's a fair amount of game.

I have no complaints.

The length of the season is just right.

Because of the rut.

Season length; many opportunities during rifle and archery.

Plenty of game, less hunters, bugling bulls.

Because I enjoy hunting elk and enjoy being in the wilderness.

Yes, except there's too much pressure.

I see ten time the elk.

I almost always see elk.

It gives me a chance to hunt elk that I wouldn't have otherwise.

It gives me a chance to hunt during bugling season.

I have not hunted for elk during archery season.

Yes, except open state land.

Damned if I know.

I have good opportunity to hunt on open public lands.

They are there I just have to catch up to them.

For health reasons, I like good weather to hunt.

I like to hunt anytime I can.

I saw game almost everytime I went hunting.

There are plenty of elk and it is very challenging.

Good numbers, days and animals.

Supreme challenge in good weather.

It's a great time of year to walk.

I like hunting during the rut and I like more roads open.
I do not hunt elk with my bow.

Herds are in good shape.

Can't ask for a better place to hunt - Montana.

I still like to get out some and this provides that chance.

There are plenty of elk in my area.

It concurs with the rut.

It's hard and challenging, also frustrating.

I like the dates and there is a fair amount of game.

I think it satisfies the number of elk harvested.

Plenty of elk and a long enough season to look for them.

The season is long enough; game is fairly plentiful; during rut.

The season is at the right time.

There are many varied opportunities of hunting, in my opinion.

There are a lot of elk with numerous chances to bag an elk.

Season length is okay, bag limit is okay (if either sex cont.).

Because of the bugling season.

Because I have a better chance to shoot a mature bull.

Best elk hunting opportunity in the country for archers.

The elk population, I believe, is at a peak.
Very challenging.

Season is fairly long, adequate animals, less competition.

Open most all areas - no special permits.

I think it has gone well for many seasons.

Weather, timing of season.

Don't know any different.

It's just the way it should be.

It is a challenging sport.

Less people; seem to see more elk; good time of year.

You see more game and have a chance to hear them bugle.

The excellent opportunity in taking a mature bull.

It is more competitive to yourself.

I have a great time at it.

Being able to hunt the bugle; price is right; lots of animals.

Lots of territory and good amounts of sign.

The years I hunted elk (mid 1970's), conditions were adequate.

It give us all the same opportunity and plenty of time to hunt.

Yes, except it could be improved by having a late deer season.

We have a better opportunity of any state to take an elk.
Because there are still remote pristine places to go (no motor vehicles).

Good opportunity due to time of season, length of season, and amount of game we have.

The rut which is vital to elk hunting does occur during open season.

PART 3 -YES

I believe the period and length of the season affords a person the opportunity to experience a quality hunt.

Less hunters and more access to the Mountains; the gates are not closed (Enjoy hunting with friends)

I see nice sized Bulls

Good accessibility-Fairly good population

Being able to bugle for them

The game is there its just a matter of getting one

So far

MOST AREAS ARE OPEN FOR EITHER SEX

it allows a person to get out when the elk are bugling.

Broad range of opportunities.

It gives an archer a chance at the Elk before rifle season.

season coincides with the rut, resulting in more sightings of mature bulls

I feel that Mont gives the Archer ample time to hunt

The hunting around here you have a good chance of seeing one.

It fine

IT WORKS

Accessability of Roads.

Meet my needs

Good game pop.

not many people hunting during archery season. Like to hunt during the rut.

Because it coincides with the elk rut.

Good enough

Because of number of Elk I see

Plenty of time to locate animals.

BETTER CHANCE IN Killing a TROPHY BULL THAN IN THE GENERAL SEASON

Date's ARE Right FOR MY scedule-COMFORT.

season coincides with rut

There seems to be For the most part, good responsible people who archery hunt.

Because I've seen alot

I think over all the herds ain't to bad. I do see a big increase in Pressure.

Nice Time of Year & plenty of Time to Hunt

EXCEPT WE NEED TO IMPROVE ARCHER PROFICIENCY

less hunter competition,

Its the correct time of the year. good length

Ive seen & heard elk, I havent during rifle season

I like hunting during the rut

I saw quite a few.

I like the early Bugling season

Because I get to bugle then and it is the time of year it increase my chance to get one

It is peaceful and fun

Meets my needs

ARCHERY SEASON FALLS DURING THE RUT

I have seen enough Elk to keep me satisfied

It can always be better. All archery hunters should have to pass a test to show that they can shoot a bow accurately.

although I have failed to fill most of my tags I have seen alot.

The challenge and amount of Elk I see.

I see plenty of animals and they are in rut.

I would like to see a late hunt permitted due to weather of early hunt.

there lots of elk if you can find them.

I seen and been close to more Elk during bow season than any other season (80 this year)

Beautiful country, good bugling season

it fun

Love to wonder around on horseback. Behind Gate's

because there are alot of elk to hunt.

It is a challenging way to hunt with personal satisfaction.

There seems to be plenty of Elk its just finding them

they are Avail.

There is plenty of game and the archery season coincides with the rut.

Population is good and healthy

I believe there is a healthy elk population in the area I hunt.

I always see Elk

Because It's challeng to hunt Elk during the Rut

yes & no

1. I am satisfied with the hunting oppertunity for elk but I am disappointed in the numbers of elk in some areas.

I am 30 years old, I have grown up in a family that almost lives for the next elk season. I believe my comments are valid do to experience I have in pursuing the great elk. I have hunted 18 yrs. and have taken as many elk, or all I admit to. My entire family hunts and with a couple of hunting partners outside the family we have taken a number of elk that would stagger even the best guides. We are loggers which helps, we learn the country and know the animal, probably better than most game biologist.

We have just recently moved form Eastern Ore., Burns & JohnDay area 1985. So I have only hunted Mont. for the last 2 seasons with a bow. I have not yet taken an elk with my bow in Mont.. With the rifle season also available I have taken 2 elk in 2 seasons. I'am just trying to show why I think what I say is important.

In Ore., the Burns area in the sixties didn't hardly have enough elk to even interest most people other than our family only a few locals even hunted elk. The game managmet was for deer in that area. N. Eastern Ore. was mangged for Elk. Anyway Burns area was open to either sex all season. It was hard to even find an elk track, my dad remembers. Things changed they stopped killing cows in the area, and now in the 80's the elk numbers are unreal, the elk even inhabit the desert sage brush country. Elk numbers in Ore. out number that of Mt. this is not right. I know I am new to Mt. but from what I have seen in the areas I have been in it is capable of many times the number of elk that exist in these area.

First the bowhunter is not hurting the elk numbers, and they are not displacing the animals for the rifle hunters. If anything is its the grouse hunter with his shotgun. Bowhunters are silent, even when shooting at elk thay sometimes stay in the same area.

I say or suggest stop killing the cows in the area's where more elk are desired, maybe a few permits for rifle season, remember the bowhunter is not the cause of low elk numbers. Prevent the Murphy Lake joke from happening again. I was logging then and am sick about what happened to the transplants. Regardless of what F.W.R. says they were wiped out. I was there and seen the elk and know what happened. The transplant was a great idea for increasing numbers but they should have been protected.

I have much more to say if your interested. Please Respond.

numerous animals & less hunters

But I would like to see more mature bulls.

There is no way to improve it.

because it goes with the rut.

Didn't hunt Elk. But it seems satisfactory.

able to shoot either sex

I can hunt many different places and usually see many elk

The way the season currently is you should be able to get your elk with some effort

I believe it is good

There are many of elk in the state of Montana

THIS YEAR I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MORE ELK BOWHUNTING THAN EVER RIFLE

Enjoy the length of season and the chance to hunt either sex

Few restrictions apply during this season

It demands good hunting skills to kill one. Very demanding.

Season is set for the rut.

I really enjoyed seeing elk I don't usually see during rifle season.

it is hard but there are many opportunities to see Elk

cause we seen elk almost every time we went out

Because enough trophy bulls are taken but not all of them

I believe the Elk herds are on the increase

usually see Elk while bow hunting

Gives me a chance to hunt trophy animals.

good chance of getting elk if you have enough skill

I think it is good, but I also think there is room for improvement.

It is challenging yet opportunity good.

The Elk are there if you get out & work for them!

I guess- 1st Yr. - no elk but learned alot!

See more elk in archery season than in rifle season

A person has a chance to get a trophy Bull

Great opportunity available

don't change anything!

You get to see more elk than you would in the general season

Equal opportunity for all hunters. The season takes in the prime time

both sexes can be killed

Because there are many places open to go right now!

I enjoy it

I protest "Bird" hunting opening during archery

Because there's nothing else like Bugling in a bull.

But inexperienced hunters are giving the sport a bad name (ie. bad shots)

the variety of places I can hunt.

it couldn't be better

It is a good time of the year.

gives one an opportunity before rifle hunting

But I would like to see area 324 opened for archery

During archery season there are ample opportunities to see elk. (and possibly bugle)

time is generous

I have not spent much time elk hunting with a bow-

Rt is very challenging.

it gives me a chance to see alot of elk- and hear them bugle & enjoy the outdoors

So far it has been pretty good but the hunting pressure in general season has pushed alot of the big game out of our area.

Yes because people can go hunting during the rut.

Lots of action

There are alot of animals

ELK HUNTING IS VERY EXCELLENT A NATURAL HIGH, IF I MAY SAY SO!

There more elk there and its more charging

Yes in Southern Districts, However, not enough game up North.

I have always come close to getting one

Because it is basically a local hunt for me

enjoy the Bugle Time of the season

-Backcountry is reasonably uncongested timing with Bugle season is good

BECAUSE IT'S FIVE WEEKS LONG AND IT STARTS JUST BEFORE THE RUT.

IT GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET CLOSE, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT AS SPOOKED

Good herds, low competition numbers good access

Good opportunity to harvest a cow or calf elk

Because it works

Its a challenge

1st Year Hunter, really no opinion

Because in the areas I hunt there is plenty of game.

It's good hunting

It is good as long as there are not too many hunters.

Able to hunt during the rut.

The length of the season and that there is still prime Elk hunting left in Montana

I HAVE ALWAYS HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO BAG MY GAME SINCE I STARTED WITH A BOW

Weather conditions, length of season and choice of areas

Have always had a chance to shoot at an Elk.

the season is at the right time of year

Because if the season was longer all the animals would be extinct

GOOD SEASON

I FEEL ELK HUNTING IS VERY CHALLENGING, ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T TAGED ONE YET.

I have seen more elk archery hunting than bow hunting this year

We always see elk.

no- season to early, some meat will spoil- yes- Indian summer-hunt in morning -

GIVES US FLATLANDERS A CHANCE TO GO AFIELD FOR A SPIECIES THAT DOES NOT EXIST CLOSE AT HAND

Game seems to be plentiful still

Hunting has to be learned not from from fees or maps

because the season is set when the bulls are bugling

I saw lots of Elk.

Elk are in Rut for Bow season

Its exciting

It's the best challenge in hunting

No sex requirments or antler restrictions

Compaired to other states Montana is fair to Archery hunters

Although it is difficult to get an elk it is vy exciting.

FOR THE MOST PART - I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE LATE SEASON ARCHERY HUNTS, AND ALL AREAS OPEN TO RIFLE ALSO TO BOW SUCH AS THE RUBY (GRAVELLY RANGE) & THE ANTONE PEAKS (SNOWCREST RANGE)

the opportunity & challange not the success or nonsuccess

BUT RESTRICTIONS MUST BE MADE AS TO GENERAL OR ARCHERY

I'm worried about the steady increase of non serious archery hunters which an either or choice would take care of that.

I am disabled & can get to Mt's in jeep & don't have to walk.

I love it, always see lots of Elk & have a ball

havn't hunted long enough to have a real positive or negative opinion

Number of elk is good - to many people though-

Hunting is good

its great recreation

It is the biggest thrill of my life. Even if you don't kill, just see them is great.

Except, I am very disappointed in the license increase's every year.

We have a long season & a fair elk population

I have seen enough of them

ther's lot's of country & Elk to find the Elk is the trick

Because it's a challange and I like the outsides.

BUT NOT ENOUGH SPIKES ALLOWED TO GROW TO 2 1/2, 3 1/2, 4 1/2, ETC

I had a lot of bugleing to me, got ace out, but enjoyed!

I FEEL THAT WE HAVE THE TIME NEEDED @ THE APPROPRIATE TIME OF YEAR.

Because there are a reasonable number of elk if you hunt for them

It is exciting and beautiful

The only problem this year was the weather.

The elk are there, and I know there are nice Bulls, you just have to be smarter than 'em

Because opportunities seemed fairly equal in areas that I hunted

I feel the Mt. Fish & Game doing a fine job management.

EITHER SEX SEASON OF ADEQUATE LENGTH.

Fair to good population & good expanse of land to hunt.

Opportunity to take either sex-also rut season.

I have found good pockets of mature bulls and I enjoy the season & regulation as is.

HUNTING'S GREAT, BUT TOO MANY UNEDUCATED, OVERNIGHT EXPERTS IN THE FIELD.

PEACEFUL TIME JUST TO GET OUT

Even though I would like to eliminate the archery slob hunter w/a choice of either/or. I like the time to hunt both

WEATHER A LITTLE WARM IN EARLY - PART OF SEASON SEPT-

Because season length is sufficient with either sex opportunities.

Because I like to be in the woods working and hunting

During bugle season there is a real chance to see the animal

MY BUSINESS (because of weather) DOES ALLOW ME ENOUGH TIME TO HUNT ELK

There are a lot of cows and spikes where I hunt.

Populations are about right.

It is a liberal arch. hunting season (time wise) & game populations are high.

Personal satisfaction

I HAVEN'T DONE MUCH, BUT FEEL IT IS OK

because there aren't so many out of stater (keep them out)

EASIER TO FIND THEN IN RIFLE SEASON

able to see elk which you often don't get to see during rifle season

see lot of elk every where I hunt

Season starts in pre rut and lasts long enough for determined hunters to have an opportunity to find elk.

The ability to see & hunt large bulls at close range

We have good sized elk pop. and it is getting more widely spread.

I THINK IF YOU APPLY YOURSELF YOU HAVE A GOOD CHANCE TO SCORE

Because I see more elk in archery season than rifle

Season is well timed and allows for camera and camping. Access is good

THERE IS ALOT OF ELK & it takes place during the nice time of the year

Because its the best time year to hunt or take pitures

It is fair to all archery hunters & I see ample game

I find alot of animals around the areas I hunt.

The time to hunt is generous and you are free to hunt anywhere in the state. Elk move alot around and so must the hunter.

I find it enjoyable to be out in the fall and hear the bugleing

It gives ample opportunitieys for succes

Its still takes the most skill & that where its at.

ALTHOUGH HARVESTS ARE LOW IN RELATION TO RIFLE, THE ENJOYMENT IS IMMENSELY GREATER

IT ALLOWS A WORKING MAN TIME TO ENJOY HIS SPORT

I've seen plenty of elk during the year's hunting them- but never got close enough for bow.

Even though some areas are becoming congested I can still find areas that are not crowded.

(1) hunting opportunity (length of season) (2) Diversity tremendous herds & opportunity for trophy bulls in all types of terain from sub alpine - timber- plains & breaks

Hunting pressure thus far is slight when away from the roads My biggest complaint is again, logging & grazing & road development.

THIS WAS MY FIRST TRY AT BOWHUNTING. SAW LOTS OF ELK, BUT AM NOT SNEAKY ENOUGH.

Just wish it was closer

I FEEL MUCH IS BEING DONE TO IMPROVE HERDS, ETC.

Chance to hunt trophy bulls during bugle season.

We have good elk population - growing more each year - Don;t screw it up.

There is plenty of game and an excelent oppertunity

Because archers are allowed to hunt elk during their breeding rut (elk): can use a call, and bugle them in.

I see a lot of elk, especially bulls

DURING RUT

Enough time to research herds, includes the rut,

Number are up, competition moderate

because it is so hard to get them you really have to try

We have a liberal season lots of public land and healthy Elk populations

Fish & Game is giving pretty equal time for archery as they are for rifle

but would be nice to have better access to some areas but generally good hunting

no changes necessary

IT COINCIDES WITH BUGLING SEASON, GREATLY IMPROVING CHANCES FOR SUCCESS.

Because you can hunt either sex and hunt with rifle either or

NICE WEATHER AND SEE MORE GOOD BALLS

I see alot of elk when I hunt. Ratio of Bulls to cows is good!

LONG SEASONS - NO CONGESTION - LOTS OF GAME

Yes and no because I think the Elk hunting is diminishing except in true wilderness areas.

BUT, NEED MORE ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

See elk every time I go and in every district.

Early season, great weather and a real challenge

The quality at this time is good due to many things, but balance is fragile

I've hunted for 25 years with a bow, in Idaho & Montana, Montana isnt as good as it was 5 to 10 years ago to many outfitters here

ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE MORE ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND IN ISOLATED SPOTS SHOULD BE MADE ie(MOSTLY LAND SURROUNDED BY PRIVATE LAND)

time of season is correct

I hunt primarily for trophy animals. so do very little shooting

Many oportunities to see and harvest game

I enjoy being able to have the privledge of bugling Elk

I think we have a good population of elk in MT

I'VE SEEN MORE GAME ARCHERY HUNTING THAN I ever have rifle

hunting.

Because you see more elk during the archery season.

Because its a good time of the year to bugle, because of mating season

I see plenty of game

There is a good amount of elk around and there is pretty good control

it's more restrictive & costly in other states on the other hand we can always use more branched antler bulls & elk in general though.

It is a vast rugged country to deeply appreciate

It offers a challenge, elk are managed fairly well.

If one is willing to go where the game is - the hunting is good. I've seen bulls every year in the last 6 years

Any Elk, good access,

I feel that there are to many hunter's out that dont care about the sport or the Deer or Elk thay shoot at!

I like archery hunting just the way it is and feel to infringment take away more rights would be

A good change of sucess!

I am generally satisfied, But would like to see more trophy animal's

Would be better if it wasent for the grouse hunters

Only my lack of success gives me a reason to be truely dissappointed except for the growng #s that possibly shouldn't be shooting a bow.

because of the bugleing season

I KNOW HOW TO FIND ELK!

Allows you to hunt either sex & gives you more oppertunity to enjoy the outdoors.

there are lots of elk - if you want to work for them.

In the Gravelies not shooting spikes and winter range aquisition have improved the hunt

You have a much better chance of filling a tag during archery season than later in the year.

There is not very many hunters

I think the elk are plentiful in the areas that I hunt

WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO HUNT MOST OF THE STATE

Well we had to go to a drawing in our area to reduce the pressure. I think I have help & hope if it doesn't stop.

It's a good challenge & doesn't need to be changed in anyway

SEASON LENGTH IS GREAT, DATES ARE GOOD.

Adequate number of animals - pressure of other hunters is tolerable.

Like to Bowhunt during the rut enjoy bugling bulls whether I shoot or not

Fits with time off. the rut (elk) and access to remote areas.

You get a chance to get close to the elk without rifle fire scaring them off.

Would like to see more bulls

Freedom to change hunting districts according to game and hunting pressure

Toss up

SAME AS DEER

There are plenty of elk and not too many hunters except on weekends.

Number of elk seen/ per my own days afield!

Always have a chance to shoot at least one a year

It's such a great challenge when you bugle in a big Bull and see how good you can fool him to come in, it's such a great feeling to be out here with such a majestic animal.

It's the right time of year.

It's good as it is.

There isn't too many hunters & seems to be a fair amount of elk but no trophy bulls.

Its tough, difficult hunting but can be done if a person really tries.

Not as many hunters

The opportunity, challenge and thrill. Why are some areas closed - based on what data?

I see elk every day (almost).

However spike restrictions should also apply to "Y"s (2 pt. bulls)

Elk populations are increasing this makes the Elk easier to find prime time for bugling

I enjoy hunting hard I respect the Elk and its habits

THE ELK ARE OUT THERE ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND THEM

Because there is Big game to hunt in Montana

Allowed to bugle

The area that I live in has a good Elk population

Good # of elk good country easy access etc

I just hunt Fort Peck area and it doesn't get too crowded, I wanted to hunt 631 dis. but didn't get it but 622 showed more of beautiful NE Mont. I believe that if you don't get the district you want there's always another year for it.

herd numbers are increasing each year (good job)

good population of trophy bulls in my area

it gives me enough time to select a hunting period and doesn't load up the woods.

Many areas open, adeq. Nos. of Elk per hunter.

It's great. If we could only close more roads & stop off road vehicles

It is abundant, there is that thrill of the bugeling bull

It is not really too productive for us but it is a lot of fun

CONFUSION EXISTS BETWEEN CONCENTRATION AND HUNTER PREASURE. HUNTING AS A WHOLE IS GAINING IN PUBLIC LANDS BUT LANDOWNER - FW&P RELATIONS ARE BAD.

We are allowed to hunt when & where we want.

I see elk every year even though I rarely get one.

Because it coincides with the rut.

I have no complaints with the archery season

I've hunted Archery Since 1956 127 season over Lincoln, MT.

Killing a animal with a bow is not as important as seeing them and being close

I see game most of the time while in the woods

the only problem I see is increased pressure

It still requires a lot of work and is challenging! Elk don't come easy to bowhunters.

Seasons is long enough & there is enough game for everyone

Have seen elk every year have enjoyed the hunts

BEST TIME OF THE YEAR TO BE OUT IN THE WOODS

It is a good place to hunt could be more bulls.

It allows us to be outdoors when elk are most visible especially while the bulls are more active

I am stasfied but not happy with the number of not to serious bow hunters

Able to shoot cow elk

No special drawing is in effect in my or most areas

Season is timed well, not enough good bulls in my favorite area.

It expands my hunting opportunity

THE SEASON IS TIMED WITH THE RUT

long season for hunters more flexibility as to when I can hunt - rifle season vs archery

For the most part there are many places open to hunting

I FEEL THE CALENDER DATE COVERS THE RUT WHICH GIVES ME THE BEST CHANCE WITH THE GOOD WEATHER -

Because with hunting in the areas that I do - ther isn't much

competition

Bird & moose hunters - mostly road hunters, disturb game.

I believe it gives a hunter quality hunting without the pressure of rifle hunting

Gives opportunity to be out in the woods when elk are not as spookey

at time crowding does become a problem.

As I said, there is time , game and good weather,I never score but I love it.

In bow season you get a chance to see big bulls.

the elk are plentiful in Mont

I usually have a good time

It corresponds with the rut, and gives me a chance for either sex.

Have access to most area's I like to hunt.

it's a challenge & I like the way the season is set up

Except for 324 closure - typical political game. Any study with multiple hypothesis is invalid. Compared with the impact of us rifle hunters two days before opening day, the archery use was insignificant. FW & P destroyed a lot of trust when they played that game.

We still have quality elk habitat and that is what really matters.

I like the early season

Season takes in the rut. Either sex & number of hunting days

Because it is during the right time of year, "The Rut".

although there are getting to be a lot more people and you never know if you're bugling a bull or hunter.

PLENTY OF TIME AND GOOD AREA

Numerous Elk in my areas - challenge of hunting with Bow

The chance for a large bull seems better than other Western St.

you have an opportunity to shoot either sex and can hunt anywhere you want to.

Because there is plenty of elk to hunt

Always see elk & never that many hunters.

Animals Bugle, are less wary

I enjoy it very much even though I have passed up shots because things weren't right to be sure of a clean kill.

Few restrictions

GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO KILL A ELK

I feel it is generally fair in all areas

CHALLENGE OF YOUR SKILLS MAYBE ONE MORE WEEK

Adapt time

Although there can always be improvements, the environment and aesthetics of the hunt are the most important to me.

I would like to see 622-630-631 opened more (more tags)

IT IS THE BEST IN THE NORTHWEST!

But I think some of the Game Management areas could use some control on slash burning through archery season

It's during the rut and the Elk are responsive

The serious archer can accomplish what he wants by intensity
good outdoor sport

Time of season length of season environment in which I hunt.

GOOD STARTING TIME AND LENGTH OF SEASON.

You can get closer and witness something somebody else can not.

I enjoy hunting Elk. Where I hunt there are fair Elk herds.

Because you have to get away from other hunters. (go in the backcountry)

There is a big challenge but I would like to see more elk.

We are lucky enough to have our season coincide with the rut of the elk. and in my area there is a large healthy elk herd.

This is my first year Bow hunting

Lots of Animals in accessible locations

You get to hunt during the rut. Also there is a better concentration of elk in the southern part of the state. Big Hole area is much better and easier to hunt.

plenty of elk in the district I hunted, good challenge

There is no greater feeling of the adrenaline rush that comes with the thrill of stalking big game.

I'm satisfied because the elk remain in the lower regions.

It is a very enjoyable sport and Montana offers a fairly good, unpopulated area for this.

Every year I have plenty of action with nice bulls, and very seldom do I not see any elk.

Excellent quality where you see animals and not hunters everywhere.

Because there is an abundance of elk in most areas, and they are bugling

Generally - yes - However the compound Bow has put many inexperienced outdoorsman & archers afield

Because the area I hunt has a good population

Either sex, bugle time!, long season

I love hunting - archery allows me to hunt before the general season

Season dates are great season & length are great

Ample time to hunt but difficult gaining access

The season is long and we have lots of Elk

I still haven't killed one but normally it gives the excuse to be out

I believe there are more Elk around

Game is plentiful and challenging to get close to.

Good animal populations but access problems

Its more challenging than rifle and I enjoy Bugling

IN GENERAL I AM. OTHER HUNTERS ARE TRYING TO RUIN HUNTING BY USING ATV'S.

Season is long enough to do serious hunting without killing the first animal that passes.

I usually encountered elk when I hunted / matter of getting a clean shot

Get to hunt either sex early season.

The opportunity for an enjoyable and challenging hunt is provided.

Archery hunting is just another way to enjoy this great state and a great sport.

Because it more of a hunt. It makes a better sport. Sport is more demanding - less hunters.

only problem is my aim

Generally satisfied, although I feel there are fewer big bulls, and much tougher access to private land.

Part III - NO RESPONSES

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH ARCHERY ELK HUNTING IN MONTANA? WHY?

Too early, weather too warm, elk are too high and scattered.

The elk population isn't very high in a lot of places and makes them tough to hunt.

We need more transplanted elk in our areas 100 and 103.

Not enough "only" areas and private lands.

Archery hunting will remain second rate as long as livestock grazing and rifle hunting hold higher priorities on public lands (inc. refugees).

Not enough being done about trophy elk.

Because nobody got any elk this year and very few last year in our area.

It is too crowded for the amount of elk around.

Saw fewer elk in district 631 this fall (1987) than ever before. Why increase hunters here?

They should extend it a little longer.

The elk are scared.

Too many neophytes in field wounding animals and unable to track or follow up properly.

I've spent eight years archery hunting elk and have only released one arrow at one bull in only one encounter in years of hunting.

I feel more road closures are needed.

I would like to see numbers increased in northwest Montana.

No, because some out of state hunters like to act like drunken bulls in rut.

Elk are too hard to get close to.

There aren't enough elk around.

There are too many spikes taken every year. A spike is no trophy!

We have way too many dry cows in our area, only three calves out of twenty-seven cows. Two spikes were both killed opening day of

gun season. Let the spikes mature and take there place in the ecosphere, a raghorn may breed.

I feel that spike bulls should be legal game for archery hunters. I am a meat hunter only.

I was not informed correctly as to where the elk were because of the warm weather.

Too many nonspike areas.

I feel general elk population in our area could be significantly increased by decreasing road construction.

Too many all-terrain vehicles.

The Fish and Game are killing way to much of everything.

We would all like to see more elk.

Need a week later in October.

Too many outfitters.

The amount of trophy bulls and bull to cow ratio is low.

Too many herd bulls are killed, leaving too many dry cows.

Not enough elk, especially bulls; too many spike bulls killed each year.

Too many Johnny come latelies, have more competition than rifle season when gates are closed. Make it either/or - or close more gates.

Grouse season opens same time.

Northwestern Montana - No cows in rifle season; no cows equals no bulls! Game is scarce - too many roads in this area (102).

Too many bulls taken during archery season.

I'd like to see a few more areas having excess cows opened for late archery hunts.

There are a lot of elk, but there are too many people bugling from 4 x 4.

Too much logging and increased road and traffic in elk breeding areas.

Too many hunters, always bugling, and not enough big bulls.

Because there are not as many elk and at Slippery Arm they run them with airplanes.

Too many elk hunters.

Seasons start and end too early!

Too much private land, limits our access.

Because there aren't enough elk around anymore.

Loss of the breaks as an open area.

It shouldn't be either sex. The entire Gallatin drainage should be four point or better for elk to archers.

Need to reopen hunting district 324 to archery hunting (planned in 1988).

Elk are getting hassled too much during archery season. Also too many elk are getting wounded during archery season.

Too many wounded and lost elk. In some areas (open country), the breeding elk are harassed too much.

More and more access each year is being locked up. Prime elk habitat is being altered or logged or is planning to be logged.

Population density on open land is too low. Season is too early.

Not long enough.

Season should be longer.

Too many hunters in area on first days.

Too many people driving around instead of hiking or riding horseback.

Too much pressure, less access.

Number of hunters has increased.

Would like to see archery hunting only in September.

Too many areas were restricted and the way the special drawing are stated (must be first choice).

Don't care for drawing in areas.

Archery hunters are wounding too many bull elk. They should have some cows only.

To many permits are given to out of state hunters.

290 should be open during rifle season for elk (cow).

Too much pressure, too many amateurs, not enough trophy bulls.
Too many novice hunters.

Because upland bird season opens the same time.

Too much aircraft and ATV use mostly initiated by Forest Service
timber cruises.

Too many people are out stirring up elk herds and poaching.

In my areas 103 and 121 the outfitters are running wild with salt
blocks and excessive camps.

More access to public lands.

I'm not happy with clearcutting practices employed by the Forest
Service.

Not enough education in proper hunting with bow.

Too many people

Guides or people with private land close to most areas close
hunters off or want a fortunate hunt.

Archery hunting is becoming very popular, and the pressure is
showing.

There needs to be a higher proportion of trophy bulls in the elk
population.

Elk are hard to get a shot at.

Need better access to areas, need more big game.

There aren't enough elk in Region 1.

Longer seasons are needed.

Elk populations are poor, no where near what Fish and Game says.
No, for the elk. Too many bigger bulls are being killed.

Too many crippled animals.

Not enough game (elk).

I think it should be bulls only with permits for cows.

Elk populations are too low. Need branch antler only in rifle
season by permit.

Lack of animals in northwest regions 100 and 101.

Because there is not enough time to examine their habits.

Some good hunting areas (public) are blocked by private parties.

Too many hunters at one time.

Small elk herd.

A person should not be able to hunt elk with gun and bow.

Would like longer late season hunt.

Numbers too low, too many bulls killed, and calves and yearlings.

Some areas should be strictly limited to archery with no rifle permits issued.

Tough to get access.

I would like to hunt the permit areas at Fort Peck but have not been successful in drawing a permit.

I would like to see my area restricted to spikes one year then branch antlered bulls. There are way too many spikes.

In our area (447) elk are herded by 4 x 4 into private land where fees are charged to hunt.

Like to see more game - better access to prime country. I don't mind roads. I do mind sections being logged off and loss of habitat.

Weather too warm; change hunt to December to January.

Big herds are in wilderness or on private property, not easily hunted.

Don't see any elk.

I and my companions did not encounter a single elk this year.

Most elk herds are on private land.

I think populations have been depleted to dangerously low levels.

Not enough managed herds on public land with access available.

Quality of trophy elk.

I do not like to be limited to one hunting district.

Game population is low and access is a big problem unless you know the right people.

The area I hunt near home has few elk and many hunters.

Limited elk population in local area. Hard to find the time necessary.

Because of wounded and lost game.

Not enough elk.

It's playing hell in some areas during breeding.
I don't like the sound of shotguns while I'm archery hunting in the mountains.

I think that there is not enough bulls; should have to draw bull tags.

Not enough trophy population, too much "bull only" hunting, should be either sex in more areas.

Not enough elk.

In 290 there's a shortage of mature bulls to breed.

Need bigger bulls.

Season is too short.

Limited access across private land.

It's probably a balance at this point between archery and rifle hunting but with the heavy hunting of bulls it appears that we're reducing the game.

Increase the overall elk population.

Have not hunted elk.

Didn't see any elk.

I haven't got anything yet.

Continuing reduction in six plus year old bulls available, otherwise okay.

I will be satisfied if I collect one elk - ever, with a bow.

To a degree, increased guide and outfitter pressure in secure elk areas have cut the population.

Again special tags need to be given out more freely (Me, five years yet to draw).

I never see one.

It is too long, too early, and too many people out there don't

know what's doing.

Wounds too many animals.

Few big bulls left and not many cows. I guess due to increased number of hunters in last ten years.

Too many hunters (many hunt bow because rifle season isn't open). Too much pressure on elk, with fewer hunters could have longer season.

My feelings about hunting during the elk mating season are the long range affects it may have on reproduction and also the confusion it instills in the animals.

Elk are hard to find, access is poor in some areas, not many elk.

Need longer season.

Most archery hunters can drive on roads closed for rifle hunters.

They have to quit playing game with our districts in South Valley. Open it all with no districts under permits and controlled by more wardens!

We kill too many spikes. People that draw cow tags should have to take a cow.

I would like to be able to get farther back in to where the elk are without spending a lot of money or killing myself.

Too many logging roads, not enough trophy animals.

Would like an extended post season hunt.

Season should be longer and elk herds should be scattered off private lands.

Too many hunters.

Yes generally, except 447 has too much pressure from Great Falls and MAFB (Air Force personnel).

Too many hunters, need to choose between rifle and bow.

It sounds like they are changing for the worse.

Unlimited licenses in unit 410 - state has sacrificed quality for opportunity!

Not enough areas open.

Drawings split up party members forcing us to areas that are unfamiliar.

Too many closed areas for no reason other than getting money for permits.

I don't like the drawing set up in some areas.

Low huntable numbers.

I used to hunt elk in the Highwoods, but the big increase of cattle ranging there changed it drastically!

All of the areas I hunt were inaccessible to get to for hunting.

Saw very few bulls in 1987 season. Bulls have been bugled to death and don't respond to bugling anymore.

Season should be longer - later.

I started in 1965 when I went with all rifle hunters and we took big bulls. Now there's more elk and less big bulls.

Season should start a week later and run longer.

Season not long enough.

There should be a minimum draw weight and proficiency test should be administered before licensed.

Not enough mature bulls. There are too many spikes killed during rifle season.

It's getting to be a rich man's game.

Poor.

A total lack of huntable population.

Poor management of elk herds by Montana Fish and Game.

Need higher population in districts 100 and 101.

Bear and moose gun season open at same time.

I do not feel there are enough trophy bulls in the area I hunt.

Not a large elk population in my area as compared to others.

We need to hunt later so we can trail in the snow.

No access to excellent hunting lands.

No big bulls, too few bull to cow ratio.

All the low country elk are on private land.

ATV's.

Make more specific knowledge to areas open to either sex.

Because with my job I don't get a chance to hunt enough.

I feel there are too many elk wounded and left to die.

Western Montana has the habitat to produce a tremendous elk population. Let's restrict rifle season to bulls only or branch antlered only. Similar restrictions elsewhere in state.

Didn't see any elk.

Not enough elk in northwest area of the state.

Not enough bulls.

Couldn't find any to shoot.

People firing guns at the same time.

Because the area north of Fort Peck was restricted to permit hunting.

They are getting harder to find and get to (private land etc.).

Need access to more state land.

Not enough elk.

Trophy animals are few and far between. Too many nonresident hunters.

Need better populations with more trophies in public land.

With the amount of hunters during the rut, it is disrupting the breeding.

Because areas are more and more restricted access. I have had to but horses, trailer and tack to hunt where I used to responsibly drive my 4x4 on roads.

As a bowhunter of thirteen years, I've noticed drastic changes in responsiveness to the bugle.

Feel there isn't enough elk in northwest Montana for what the habitat can support.

Needs to be lengthened.

Too many inept hunters in the field, just as in rifle season.

Not enough elk.

Season starts too early.

Scarcity of elk and area hunted (Castle Ranch). Need to limit amount of rifle hunting!

Needs to be more elk around.

There are always a few slob hunters. Harder to find "no road areas".

There is too much random "pot shooting", wounding elk.

Limited to one area north side of Missouri that's fairly close to home.

Open state totally for elk.

No snow to track and disturbs breeding. Too many people wound and lose animals.

Too many animals on private posted land.

Lack of bull elk due to rifle hunting regulations.

Too much posted land.

Seismograph activity in the Beartooths - Sliver Run. Should be mature bulls not branched; cow by permit only.

I wish there were more in nonwilderness areas, but I sympathize with ranchers.

There is getting to be too many people out that are not dedicated. They are giving the sport a bad name.

Not enough elk.

Need to enlarge herds.

Not enough big bulls.

Want greater access to forest, mainly checkerboard land in Crazy Mountains.

Because they log the areas too hard.

Too many out of state hunters and nonserious hunters. I'm fourteen years old.

Because I can't hunt in district 324 because it's closed for bow hunting.

The season starts too soon.

Limits participation in drawing a rifle permit.

It allows us to hunt during the best time, the rut.

I like it as is.

Too many buglers in Bitterroot/Missoula area.

Not enough areas open to hunting when we have snow.

Too many hunters are taking the field, and access roads should be closed just as they are for rifle season.
Not long enough season; if it's not real cold they don't rut as well.

In some of the areas elk are too pressured by rifle hunters too much.

Sightings of branch antlered bulls are declining.

Too many first time people have not properly studied and prepared themselves to hunt elk productively with a bow.

It hasn't been good because of weather conditions.

The season should run a little later in to the rut.

I think adjustments will have to be made for rifle season drawings by increasing bow pressure and crippled or lost.

Laws are too tight.

A successful bow hunter should not be denied gun season.

Seasons are too short and conflict with bird season and antelope.

Season should be longer.

All cow elk and not many bulls in area 250.

The weather is too hot.

Too much game not found after they have been shot.

Too many wounded animals.

Too many hunters, not enough trophy animals (branch antlered older age classes).

Would like post rifle season hunt.

Too many people abusing the season we have.

Open more restricted areas for archery only, not rifles.

Because there is too many limitations where you can hunt.

As each "old" established road is locked up, the average hunter loses a little more of this wonderful state.

Area by Lewis and Clark Caverns should be open to archers only.

I feel there is too much hunting pressure for the numbers of animals available.

Would like to see more trophy animals.

The number of buglers has gotten out of hand. I can no longer find a place on the Kootenai where someone isn't bugling elk.

Road closures - no access to areas I have hunted for over thirty-three years.

Because we hunt year round.

Should have a choice of district for a hundred percent draw.

I object to compound bows.

Too many roads closed year round.

Too many ATV's!

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks imposes experimental management restrictions on archers rather than on gun hunters because they meet with less disapproval (smaller group), for example, the recent change in elk archery regulation's on north side of Fort Peck. The very nature of this questionnaire indicates that we are about to be experimented on again! If you want to try some new management techniques, grow some ----, and subject the entire hunting population to them, rather than wishy-washing around.

On horse back it would be fine, it is hard to get them on foot!

Because there were not enough game wardens to stop criminal acts, also I couldn't hunt in both districts 631 and 632 - I had to make a choice.

Bird hunting should not be allowed in the elk habitat during bow season.

Too many rifle permits in Missouri Breaks have decreased elk population.

Don't like special permit needed for Missouri Breaks and too many rifle permits there with present low elk numbers.

The quality is good though noticeably worse each year in districts 435 and 380 due to habitat reduction and increasing numbers of hunters.

The elk are too high in behind all these Forest Service gates. Most animals would spoil before you could get them out. I'm not rich enough to buy horses.

Archery season disrupts bull elk at time of breeding (last calf crop).

Too many areas are closed by the Forest Service, we do not have horses.

Because a combination of things has made people not care about the animals they hunt.

Too many closed districts.

I'm sick of paying taxes for Federal land and am then virtually denied access because some rancher owns all the access land and rents his access to some outfitter! That's one of the biggest ripoffs in Montana hunting!

It's hard to find good hunting areas that are still open to the public.

Would like a post season in areas where cow tags aren't filled (250 and 270).

Need a longer season.

Because of the spike bull only law.

Too much pressure on the elk.

Too many of the ranchers won't let you hunt their land.

Not enough of them, and getting worse.

Any one drawing special tags has to hunt that species.

Too many nonserious hunters are screwing things up for us serious ones.

Too brushy, no bulls, too many people.

Some areas are fine, but others like the Little Belts are badly over hunted. Conversely, we found the Bitterroot to be great hunting.

Should be later in the year for colder weather/snow.

Not enough mature bulls.

Too many poor hunters-trackers. A guide I know lost eight bulls and they were never found. I found three bulls dead with arrows in them.

To decrease pressure during both seasons a person should have to choose between bow or rifle.

We pay extra money for our license but don't get any extra tags.

Too many ATV's offroading and cross country. Bull to cow ratio is way off.

Not enough mature (not big) but mature bulls (due to improper special permit management).

Late season rifle hunt in 212, on the prison ranch.

Too many elk shot and lost.

Too much control by archers RE: bugle hunt.

Because in a lot of areas I hunt there is a scarcity of elk for acres of land.

Shutting off roads and closing access.

Too many roads have been closed.

Some who are hunting with bow are not serious enough to take the time and do it right.

Too many "sticks" by beginners (one guy stuck five and didn't retrieve one)!

Could have more late season hunts.

Each area should be rested every few years from archery, but archery breaks up large herds before rifle season so there isn't a slaughter in rifle season.

I can't understand why 324 is closed for archery hunting. Then you turn around and let 600 or more permits for cows during rifle season.

Too crowded in some MB districts.

I don't think there's enough elk.

Poor quality in many areas (few mature bulls) and too much hunting pressure.

Too congested in many areas.

The Highwoods only have a few public access areas.

Party applications should be accepted so that the people in a group can at least be in the same district.

An archery tag should show you are able to generally hit whatyou aim at.

Too many accessible roads to 4x4's and cycles (permanent closure).

I feel that elk hunting should start later, one week and last.

No luck (ha ha!) seriously - management (F,W & P) okay by me.

This is one species that there are too few of.

I have had no elk shots or kill yet to date.

There don't seem to be enough elk.

I think too many elk are wounded with a bow.

I do not own a horse and a lot of Forest Service property where elk are high and the temperature is hot, is not huntable.

I didn't get one this year.

The elk is sometimes lost with arrow stuck in it.

I believe population levels could be higher.

There is not enough game management.

Archers should be allowed to hunt branch antlered bulls.

Conflict with bird hunters and cattle grazing on forest land during season.

Late hunts or depredation hunts.

Too many ATV's.

Need more elk.

Too many inexperienced people trying to bugle elk.

Fish and Game aircraft in area.

Would like to be able to hunt branch antlered also in 380.

Not enough elk, and if there are any they are on inaccessible private land.

Trophy or mature animals could be improved.

I think the populations are low.

The bugle season should have been earlier this year.

Would like to hunt branch antlered also in 380.

Need more landowner and hunter cooperation.

Would like to see branch antlered only.

Because elk are chased off national forest lands onto less populated hunted private land, and cannot get on.

Because there aren't enough big bulls.

Too many nonserious archers are out during the elk rut.

If general season buy permits for cows in 130, the archery season would be better.

Too many hunters, too short of season, lack of game.
Because of limited access through private ground to public ground.

We don't need special permits or drawings for archery. Both sides of Missouri River should be open for archery hunting, no permits or special drawings.

Season should be longer.

There should be no drawings in Missouri Breaks.

Not enough bulls in Little Belts.

Not enough elk.

No, because of permits in areas 622 and 631.

There is getting to be no trophy herd bulls left.

I wish more hunting districts were open to elk.

Some areas need to be rested for one to three years to repopulate.

Generally yes, but it would be nice to have a two week post season hunt while they're rutting.

Most areas accessible to common people are still full of campers, woodcutters and workers.

I do not believe a hunter should jump from area to area. Bigger

bulls and bucks are needed.

Because Fish and Game change so much every year that it's just no fun to hunt no more.

Poor access to national forests.

Not enough experience and hard to obtain permission.

Not enough game population.

Not experienced in this animal hunting.

The number of animals in proportion to land mass is not good.

Most of the elk in this area except the river are on private land or landowners block access to public lands.

We need more elk on public land or better access to private land.

Most elk in my area move to private property during season, no access available to the public.

Elk tend to be concentrated on private land during bow season. I don't see as many as gun season.

Not enough big bulls.

Not enough animals on public land.

I haven't really hunted much for elk with a bow.

Too many elk are taken - let bow hunter use same season as rifle.

There doesn't seem to be as many trophy bulls as in past.

Some areas get too much pressure.

Because I can't shoot spike bulls.

I feel during archery season, there should be any district with spike or branch antlered only.

Habitat - over posted public land and the use of permit priviledge for CMR permit.

Too much land posted to no hunting.

Not enough elk.

I hear of too many people that hit animals and can't find them.

Access to good elk country is getting very difficult to obtain.

Should make more areas trophy hunting only, no cows or small bulls taken.

Elk are too sparsely scattered, don't see many elk.

More land access and less fee hunting.

The hunting is wonderful! the shooting or the chance to shoot elk is slim at best!

Difficult to pack into areas unless you own a horse.

I am somewhere between yes and no because it is getting harder to find medium to large bulls in my area.

Not good weather and I haven't seen a bull elk this year.

I don't feel they should have closed the north side of the Missouri River (CMR), permit only other than that yes.

We need more archery only areas throughout the state for the full season.

The major herds are on private property that charge to hunt in the closer areas.

Too many nonqualified hunters, anybody with a bow can be out there with no ability to make a clean kill.

Because all areas should be open without special permits.

Not enough public land tags available, too much private (no hunting) land.

I don't even know anybody who has taken an elk with a bow!

Bugling has dropped off in the last five years. I did not hunt elk much this year.

Because I live too far from the good hunting.

Too many hunters, too much pressure on elk. Season could be longer. Afraid I will not be drawn for Missouri Breaks.

---- out of staters!

Tough public access to private land near Great Falls.

Too many hunters, too much pressure on elk. Afraid I won't be drawn for Missouri Breaks. Season could be longer for fewer dedicated hunters.

Again we have too many buglers ". . this can and has disturbed elk movement and breeding patterns."

Because of increase in hunters. I think there should be more branch antlered bull seasons.

Fish and Game Department does not respond to local opinions on Missouri Breaks area north and south.

Limited access to public lands because of private controls on access.

Spike bulls should not be shot with bow or rifle!

Too many people, limited access, shortage of trophy bull, shortage of game wardens.

Restricts my opportunity to hunt unit 622 because I must choose between bow and rifle.

Too many nonserious bow hunters. Poor mature bull/cow ratio.

There is not enough big trophies anymore.

I don't think there should be any restrictions, ie. branch antlered.

The season should be opened earlier and closed the same time.

We can't access public lands because of bordering landowners.

The bull to cow ratio is very poor due to poor management in general season.

Access problems are creating a rich man's sport.

Don't like permits and hunting in one district.

Poaching and illegal aircraft flying the gates and Breaks.

I did not see very many elk. Hunted Jardine, Big Sky and Dillon.

The areas are limited because of access to much wilderness areas.

Would like to see a late season - bow only season.

Not enough bulls.

Too many hunters in most areas.

I was, but for two years they gave 800 tags. The numbers are down.

Need more elk.

I feel elk numbers could be greatly increased in some areas.

Too much posted land.

Local biologists could improve communications.
Too much public land has no public access.

Weather was too warm.

Need more road closures.

I think that it begins too early. Combined with the rifle season, it makes the season too long for the landowners.

I'd like to see more animals.

Too many roads making access to good elk country too easy.

Increase the overall elk population. I am satisfied with season length and regulations.

Haven't got one with bow.

There could be more elk in back country. Elk near rivers need more protection.

I'm not that aware of it. I think game management should come first and hunter interest second.

Would like it earlier to allow for daylight, enabling after work hunts.

Can't seem to find any elk.

I would like to see 631 and 632 license drawing stopped or numbers increased.

No elk in Montana to hunt with archery or rifle.

I'm concerned that we lose many wounded bull elk.

380 was closed to antlered bulls.

The elk are getting smart and disappearing.
I only hunt elk in the Breaks. There are too many people in there at one time.

Archery season is too liberal; too many archers, too many wounded animals.

Too many bow hunters, quality bugling has dropped off in the past ten years.

I saw less game than last year.

Season needs to be in rut.

More season needed.

Need larger populations.

Need to restrict season to serious experienced bow hunters.

Not enough elk herds around.

Too many hunters to realistically hunt with bow and arrow.

I believe it is too short a season and should be longer.

Season should be longer in areas of less game.

Seismic activity before and during the season, poaching during and after the season.

Need more elk to hunt.

Elk populations are low.

A lot of land has been made more available to get to by vehicles.

Too many hunters in the area which made the game too spooky; too much pressure.

I feel again the season should begin sooner and last longer.

Too many rifle poachers during bow season.

Nonresident license fees are too high compared to archery success rate.

Example: 310 moose hunters and elk archery hunters with guns and bows don't mix.

I would like more elk and more habitat.

Season is too long, too much access by 4x4's.

There are too many nonserious elk hunters. They just disturb the elk and (rut).

Restrict seasons to branch antlered bulls and cows (no spikes) statewide.

I think the season should be split.

Too many archers.

Too many hunters; density is too high.

Not enough elk.

Elk on private land - pay basis.

Too many access problems.

Poor access, low populations, short bow season should have longer season.

Need longer season.

Lack of accessible land.

Too limited to good hunting access to federal lands.

It seems the state is closing more good areas to archery each area.

Too many young and females are killed.

Generally yes, however, I would like to see the first two weeks of the season reserved for in resident hunters.

Not in area 621, 622, and 623; do away with districting.

It's hard to find any bulls. The cows are difficult to get where you can pack out before spoilage.

I would like to also bow hunt for at least two weeks after rifle season is closed.

I agree with #8A in part II if you include primitive weapons (flint lock rifles only).

Too far to go if I draw for rifle permit.

Vehicles going where they shouldn't be; too many out of state licenses.

I think we could have more and longer seasons (less rifle). There are not many mature animals.

I believe that too many people are bow hunting because of the weather.

There is mining in my area and surveying.

Too many unqualified hunters.

Too many people trying to bugle.

Season is too long.

Oil company seismic activity in area I hunt.

Elk herds need to be developed more in south central Montana - Pryors, Bulls, Beartooths.

We need a late season hunt for either sex in more areas.

Should be branch antlered bull in all regions especially in gun season.

There aren't enough bulls and the elk ranges are overgrazed by cattle.

They're too far back, you have a hard time getting the meat out without spoiling.

Very disappointed with national forests of the west with roads and cattle upsetting the wild experience.

Not enough big bulls.

Too many hunters and there should be a limit on size of bull elk taken.

Because there are too many hunters and permit hunting.

They are allowed too much access by vehicles to hunting areas.

I would like to see more designated archery only areas.

There needs to be a post season.

Too many hunters, in staters and out of staters, who don't know what the purpose of hunting with a bow is.

License quotas for nonresidents and trophy management favors guides and rich clients.

There's not a lot of elk. More areas should be branch antlered only.

All good areas are closed by ranchers (C.A. Ranch).

Poor quality hunters with bows.

Local areas controlled by either/or restrictions.

I didn't hunt elk this year or last year because of the permits required for 621 and 620 etc. I had been hunting on the south side of the river but now that is overpopulated with people due to permit only areas. I disagree with the count of elk at the Missouri River Breaks. I feel something better could have been done than the permits.

Restrict out of staters to one license every two years.

Reasons - too many, too long, and too complicated to answer on paper.

Limited access to herds.

District 380 regulations for archery stink.

Too many out of state people hunting in choice areas.

Too many nonserious hunters, hunters who don't know how to skillfully shoot a bow.

I would like to see a party drawing.

Party permit in drawing areas; only hunt one hunting district.

Lack of trophy bulls (and other bulls also).

Not enough elk.

Too many elk are lost when wounded. Snow would reduce numbers lost.

Season is too short. There could be late season hunts, also.

Elk populations aren't high enough!

Short season, no spikes.

Season starts too late and ends late.

We need a late season elk hunt.

Not enough access to prime hunting areas.

Too many "slob" bow hunters; too few mature bulls.

Lack of game, lack of land access, large increase in number of bow hunters in last few years.

Guides/outfitters and out of state hunters receive preference in permit system.

The area (623) that I hunted the most seems to be overrun with nonresident hunters who set up large camps for the entire season.

There should be only resident hunting - no out of state hunters.

You don't seem to have any problem with giving out special tags. Why can't archers have their own tags?

Too many hunters; low skill levels of new hunters screw up still hunting. Minor problem - bad shots, poorly hit animals staggering around two days before death.

This was my first year and the weather was too warm. The elk weren't in rut yet.

Too much leased out land; can't get permission or access.

There is insufficient access to wildlife areas in Montana. Landowners are still denying access even when you ask first politely.

Too much restriction on where you can hunt.
I've never been elk hunting with my bow, just deer.

The area I would prefer to archery hunt in is closed (324).

I am very concerned about the commercial aspect of hunting. Paying hunters expect the right to kill.

There could be better management of herd.

Success is not high enough. Elk are too widely dispersed.

Not enough elk.

Too many closed roads to good hunting areas.

Use of all terrain vehicles.

Didn't see one elk.

A very real lack of trophy bulls; lack of access to public lands across private property; continued closure of area 323.

The area I hunt elk seems to be overrun with too many other hunters from other counties and states (too congested).

The long rifle season has hurt the elk population - shorten one week.

You can't hunt any kind of elk in area 380. I do a lot of hunting in that area or use to.

Decrease in bull elk.

There are not enough elk accessible to the walking hunter.

I think that hunting time should stop at 3 pm in the afternoon.

Small herds, lack of backcountry security (motorized).

Can't find the elk.

All area should be either sex for archery hunting.

I'm for managing for quality rather than just quantity (at least in some areas).

The 1987 season would have been better if the temperature was cooler and wetter.

I would have liked to have seen more elk.

Too much access; not enough roadless areas.

Not enough elk.

I'm optimistic though, as I see more and more areas with restrictions on spikes.

Compound bows are easy to use and bring out more slob hunters.

Not enough chance to shoot cows.

This year was a freak, therefore we should have been able to hunt when the deer were out.

Too much competition from rifle hunters for game.

Season is too short.

I feel some elk breeding areas should be off limits too bow hunting.

Elk concentrated on private or closed land.

I would like to see hunting pressure decreased.

The Department's policy of allowing spike bulls to be shot during all of rifle season.

Shorten season but extend after rifle season.

Too many hunters in one area kill too many mature bulls.

Larger elk herds.

Shorten season but extend after rifle season.

Not enough elk.

Having to apply for permit at Fort Peck when we live in this part of the state. Large amount of out of state hunters at Fort Peck CMR refuge.

There aren't any elk.

No access to private ground.

There are not many trophy size elk.

Too much private land closed not allowing access to Forest Service land.

Not enough elk.

Access to the elk herds in 314 is too limited.

I would like to see larger elk population.

Not enough elk in the woods.

It is wrong for permit basis in Missouri Breaks.

I think the Fort Peck permit shouldn't keep you from the Gardiner late hunt.

Should be extended up to opening day of big game.

I think more districts should be open at this time.

Not enough branch antlered bulls in 315.

Too many poor hunters.

The weather.

Not enough public land to hunt.

Because of the oil company's aircraft in zone 575.

Some areas are required to hunt archery or rifle but can't hunt both.

Too much land is posted; not enough animals in accessible areas.

Area 324 should be opened for elk hunting with a bow.

Season should start later in the year.

We need more access to private lands or any land.

There was logging damage done to an important holding areas above Russian Flat.

This year I didn't even see an elk.

No trophy bulls to hunt!

More trophy bulls and areas.

Would like to see more trophy animals.

Too few trophy animals; too many hunters without licenses.

It seems like your putting permits on everything.

The herds primarily where I hunt haven't come out of the Bob Marshall yet (no horses).

Lack of mature bulls.

Never filled my tags!

Low bull herds.

The season should start one to two weeks earlier and no change in season length.

Changing of regulations for branch antlered bulls in 380.

By the time the elk go into rut where I hunt, the season is over.

Lack of mature bulls; I do feel that the branch antlered rule is good.

I would like to see more elk.

Too many hunters concentrated in a few areas.

I never see any elk while I'm out hunting.

Overgrazed forests; outfitters herd elk with shotguns.

Can't get access to many herds in the area.

Too many hunters in Missouri Breaks area.

Need more late archery seasons for either sex.

Would like to see a later season.

Should be able to hunt CMR wildlife refuge as well during archery without a special permit limiting our rifle hunt.

Because I don't have enough time to kill anything.

Bugling big bulls early in season is too easy and not fair to elk.

Access being denied for the purpose of fee hunting and outfitter gain.

Herds are too scattered.

Lack of mature bulls.

Department should work towards better trophy class animals.

As I stated earlier, our biggest problem is allowing hunters to hunt more than one district.

Not enough bull elk.

Too long of a season; no minimum regulations on bows (should be at least fifty five pound pull).

Because in the district I hunted elk in this year there was no vehicles to help drag the animals to camp.

There is not a late hunt! The elk are not down! The meat will go bad faster in the warm weather.

Because you have to use archery as your first choice when drawing for permits.

We are limited to one hunting area and can not hunt with friends in other areas.

There are more cow and calf elk than bulls (a lot).

Archery only is not allowed in some early hunting districts, ie. 316.

Too many hunters.

Because Fish and Game sees how it can make a dollar so it says this area will be a special drawing. Before the area was open to any archer.

Too many gun hunter type people out during bow hunting.

In the area I hunt there is too much summer activity like seismography.

There are not enough elk.

Season is too early and it 1) disrupts the breeding season, 2) keeps animals too far in backcountry.

Prime public hunting areas have no access.

Lack of access to private range land.

More elk.

Ranchers deny access and are selling game to outfitters.

Incredible increase in number of hunters in past two years.

Permit and access problems in Missouri Breaks.

Not enough bull elk.

The bugling by hunters has pushed elk back to remote areas.

Trophy class animals aren't present like in the past.

Because I didn't see a one.

The CMR Refuge where I hunted was way over congested!

I believe the use of a crossbow for archery and elk is more realistic and there's less loss of the animal.

I would like to see a post season hunt.

Not enough accessible areas. Horses are a must - or a lot of time.

Not enough elk on public land.

Too much pressure.

It is long and starts too early.

Not enough access.

Feel hunting during the rut is unfair.

Too many hunters in some areas.

Should have more branched only seasons to increase number of bulls, not spikes only.

Closing too many areas to 4x4's.

Not enough game; too many hunters.

Should regulate seasons to provide for more trophy bulls in population, ie. elkhorns.

I was not provided with good information for hunting in areas I was in.

Too much pressure on elk the first two weeks.

Not too many people get an elk in the archery season.

Elk herds are too scattered and too few; most are on private land.

Too many amateurs making bulls call shy.

Too many hunters; too many gimmicks.

In our 500 area it should be a branch antlered season, which applies mostly to rifle.

Some roads should be closed to ATV and truck travel.

Make it harder for ATV/motorcycle "road" hunters to get in elk areas.

There's not enough access to elk because rifle hunting is driving elk out of more accessible areas.

I feel archers should be able to take spikes. I saw more branch antlered elk before. This no spike rule is in areas I hunt.

Because of the use of the cow call and bugle, the elk are disturbed and wounded by too many irresponsible, unpracticed, so called "sportsmen".

Population seems to be decreasing.

Would like to see two seasons, early and late.

Two reasons: too many wounded animals; the population is too low. We need more restrictions on elk harvest in northwest Montana, i.e. cows by permits only, only branch antlered bulls.

Not enough trophy bulls.

Elk are getting smarter and there is more pressure. I have talked to archers who don't care about the shots they take or what they hit. I do!

Should not be opened before early rifle bugle season.

Too many hunters.

Too many spikes being taken; allow more cow permits for locals and this will effect bow hunters also.

As the hunting numbers are growing - the vehicle access is out of control.

Too long season.

It should be shorter as to not interfere with breeding; all kills should be mandatory to have checked.

I prefer a nonmechanical bow. Compound bows wound and lost too many.

There are too many unskilled archers blowing their damned bulges and scaring and/or wounding elk!!

Hunting during mating (bugle) season should be banned. Should restrict to general season.

I think the season should be shortened to two weeks.

Out of area hunters are invading southwest Montana.

Herds are decreasing.

There seems to be an increase number of bow hunters who are not educated in shooting (me) and tracking.

Too many restrictions on land to hunt elk on; it's posted or closed.

I would like to see the early season shortened and maybe see a late seson hunt.

Residents should have preference. Drawings for Fort Peck areas is not right.

Insufficient protection for young bulls; too many nonarchers hunting with bows.

I believe more enforcement of fair chase should be enforced in 600 district.

Too much emphasis on closing areas so that people that don't have horses have to walk in or not go in.

There are too many hunters and too little space.

I don't believe in killing bulls in breeding season.

Too many people.

It is hard to get animals close enough.

You just don't see any around Kalispell.

Too many big bulls are killed early.

Too much pressure on herd bulls during the bulge; wasted game.

Itneeds to be moved to two week later in season then have rifle season.

Big bulls get away mortally wounded.

Has unfair advantage over rifle season.

Not enough elk.

Too many out of state hunters.

Not any trophy elk for the number of cows.

There should be more secondary roads closed off for all but foot and horse travel.

Too many 4x4's and three wheelers are running around the woods.

Shorten early season and add more late season hunts.

Elk get a back seat in district 130.

Want to harvest spikes.

Season starts a week to two week too early.

Too few trophy animals.

Our season ends prior to movement of elk herds usually prior to good snows, then the pressure of rifle season makes archery hunting both unsafe and noncompetitive.

Should have a late hunt.

Dont' like the trophy only areas - reduces opportunity.

Too many weekend hunters wound too much game, take the mature bulls.

Don't believe in elk hunting in 80 degree weather because the elk get sour and wasted.

Would like to see it be pushed back two weeks.

Too many inexperienced hunters are harassing game as is rifle pressure.

Too many hunters spoil it.

Those roads closed during gun season should be closed during archery season.

Access to public lands is being denied from the public by landowners.

Trying to limit archery hunting to specific areas.

Private lands present access to some excellent elk hunting (not forests).

Too many hunters and congestion.

Season should open two week sooner.

Elk don't bulge in area like they do in others.

I would like to see the Ruby range open for elk hunting and shooting of all spikes.

Access is limited in some areas and congests hunters.

Very few trophy size bulls.

Bugling season needs to be longer.

It's becoming too congested.

Bull populations are low, thus cow/calf ratios are low. There are many unbred cows.

Decline in area and habitat.

Too many hunters; not enough bulls in proportion to cows.

Population densities are low and hunter pressure and quantity is increasing dramatically.

Too much logging activity in my area interferes with the rutting of the elk.

The season is not long enough to allow elk to herd up and migrate.

Not enough animals per area.

Need more trophy animals.

Too much vehicle access to hunting areas due to the current land management practices of the state and Forest Service.

Limited to one area.

No effort is being made to save the spikes to improve mature elk population.

We need bigger herds and a better cow/bull ratio.

Need to close roads during archery season.

Again more time; it would be good to have a two week break between bow and rifle season but I voted against it because it would take a week away from bow instead of adding one.

The population of animals is declining.

Too many untrained, casual bow hunters are wounding animals.

Not enough elk.

Too many nonserious hunters.

Not enough elk, i.e. bulls, in area.

There are not enough mature trophy bulls in the herds.

Herds seem smaller every year.

Number of trophy bulls in elk herds has declined tremendously in past ten years.

There aren't enough trophy bulls in the herds.

Not enough elk.

Too many hunters; fewer large bulls.

I believe elk hunting shouldn't be possible because they are too hard to kill and it bothers their breeding season.

Fewer big bulls; too many people hunting that can't hit a barn.

Too many clubs and officials dictating rights to benefit their own hunt.

The weather; too many elk lost because of no tracking snow.

Not enough elk.

Too many permit only areas in the CMR Refuge, which overcrowds are 700 causing landowner complaints and too much archery pressure in the remaining nonpermit area.

Too many wounded elk.

Too much hunting pressure due to number of hunters.

Not adequate wildlife.

Stop hunts altogether during breeding season.

Too many "instant" bow hunters who hunt with no regard for ethics or tradition. It's too crowded.

Not enough elk in some areas. More elk should be put in some areas.

Too many people.

Can't find those buggers!

The weather was way too warm. It's hard for serious archers to find private land to hunt on.

More road closures need done and too many unethical bow hunters

are afield.

Elk should be allowed to breed unmolested.

As stated prior, I object to unlimited road access in habitat areas.

More archery only areas. No rifle hunting in archery season. Limit either the time or number of cows. Close logging roads September 1.

Not enough elk.

Should limit season on cows; only branch antlered bulls in needed areas; increase fees with percentage to habitat enhancement and preservation; bow hunters education course installed.

I would like to see more bulls.

My area is branch antlered only.

Too many out of state hunters (Idaho and Washington) need to be restricted, especially Idaho.

Not enough large bulls.

The population of elk are mostly cows, but are still far and few between.

It's very hard to know where and when the best time to go is.

Need a late season hunt (December).

Too many wounded animals.

Outfitters will slowly take it away from us.

Every place I hunt there is logging operations going on. The game has moved out. You have to go so far to other areas.

Too many wounded elk.

Not enough "trophy" type bulls.

Could open one week earlier and close one or even two weeks earlier.

Fewer herd bulls.

The lack of elk in the areas I hunt.

Too many hunters.

Need better game management.

Season need to be extended a week or two (bring rifle season in later).

I feel the season should start later when it's cooler all the time. The elk herd numbers are declining.

Not enough elk.

In the district I hunt it is overgrazed by cattle and there are too many clearcuts, reducing elk numbers.

Unable to get information on best hunting spots - no knowledgeable personnel available for questions.

Too many outfitters and out of state hunters; too much destruction of summer thermal cover and crown cover by USFS and new roads.

I haven't killed anything yet!

Becoming too congested and too many slob hunters who don't bother to practice and become proficient.

It's too easy to become an archery hunter. We need a competency test or something to restrict the number of hunters.

Because there are too many hunters concentrated in one area and if one hunter bugles nobody know if it's real or fake.

Because I think too much game spoils in the woods at that time of year.

Elk are very scarce in my area of Montana.

I would like to see measures taken to increase the numbers of "trophy bulls".

I feel there are too many hunters that disrupt the natural bugling of an elk. This is done by the imitation bugling of hunters.

No enough trophy bulls in area 331 - closed to spikes in rifle season.

Found a lack of bulls and a high ratio of dry cows vs. wet cows.

The Forest Service destroys habitat. Want late season hunt for problem areas.

Because you can't get away from wood cutters or grouse hunters, tree planters, etc.

No herd bulls - raghorns and spikes, with and breeding 35-50 cow

elk.

Population, access closures by landowners to public land.

Adult animals are in very short supply (males).

Not many animals accessible by foot. I can't afford horses, guides, etc. Most land is locked up.

The rut is too disturbed by archers in some areas. I would rather hunt in December.

In the Gardiner area I have watched the bull population be destroyed.

I don't like to hunt elk.

Vehicle problems in forest; lack of public access in certain areas; ignorance among hunters.

Low populations.

The population is just not there.

Not enough game ratio to number of hunters in my area.

The area I hunt in 110 was logged off in 1987 destroying natural habitat.

Elk populations seem to be low in district 130.

I don't feel there are as many elk as a few years ago.

Too many nonserious bow hunters spooking deer and elk.

Need more animals.

Not enough animals.

There's just not enough game out there.

Elk need more open high meadows.

I would like to see more elk transplanted in district 100 and 101.

Too many slob hunters; too many outfitters in the few good bow hunting areas.

Need more bulls.

Not enough trophy bulls.

Season is too short. I think it should run almost into rifle

season.

Not enough bulls per cows and season should not interfere with the rut.

Archery and rifle hunting should never coincide in the same district, i.e. moose and bear early special seasons.

Too many out of staters who have no respect for our resources and rules.

Too many elk are lost because of bad hits and poor tracking skills.

It's getting harder to find good trophy bulls 5x5 and better.

We need more elk.

Area 100 is too low in elk population.

I would like to see some large road closure areas.

I don't feel there are as many elk in western Montana as some say.

Herds are too small.

Too many losses (animals) and too much poaching.

Elk habitat is disrupted by logging practices.

Grouse season opens same day as archery - gunshots and increased activity cause game to change habits.

Access to private land.

Too many hunters.

Access to national forest and private land is limited. Too damn many outfitters.

Need larger populations.

A lot of good bugling occurs on private land and ranches. Need to open stock farm.

Access is closed to many areas unless guides are used.

Not enough elk.

Too many big bulls are taken by bugling; not enough cows.

Not enough nice elk.

Would like to see more "trophy" bulls.

Too many hunters who don't know what they are doing.

Not enough elk and too many road restrictions.

No time.

Road closures should take affect sooner, not October 15.

The bull elk are way too few, and hunting in the rut is not the answer.

Not enough trohpy elk.

Because Jerry Brown (Libby) has taken it upon himself to close roads which I have used to access my hunting areas for nearly twenty years.

Toomuch pressure on local herds and hunters too willing to make risky shots.

Not enough large bulls.

Locked out of public lands (reasonable access) by wilderness, road closures, leasing, mining, and logging.

No hunting should be allowed during the bugle season.

Bulls should be limited to branch antlered only.

Rifle season could be shorter; increase herd.

Should hunt archery or rifle, not both.

Should be after general season for rifle, when there is snow.

Hunter should pick rifle or bow, not both.

Not enough elk; too little access habitat.

Not enough elk.

Too much patronizing is one when it comes to outfitters.

Lack of game management.

Too many out of state people getting permits.

Too many regulations, fees too high.

Too many hunters and all terrain vehicles and ultralites.

Complete unit closure such as in 324 makes no sense and further

concentrates hunters.

Too many out of staters that don't pay enough and we pay too much.

I feel it should be shortened and walk in areas should be designated exactly as in rifle season.

There is not enough public access to public lands.

Access to school land's state lease is nonexistent.

Too many people bow hunt that don't know what they are doing. Elk hunting in Montana receives too much hype, with too many sportsmen (license) dollars spent on elk management.

Season is too early and too long.

Elk are scattered and respond poorly to bugling.

Need post season and there are too many archers. I started in 1963.

Season should be later.

I would like to kill more for my sled dogs.

Too much publicity; too many out of state hunters; too many amateur archers wounding elk and never retrieving them.

Too many bull taken during rut. Too many wounded that are not followed up.

You can never have enough elk - can you?

Too many people taking bad shots and wounding elk. They are not serious about the sport.

Too restrictive.

Too much private land with pay or no access.

Too many regulations.

Needs late season hunt.

Need more bulls.

It's not long enough.

Too many hunters; too many lost animals.

Elk populations needs to be increased in area 333.

There's too much commercial hunting in high country.

The elk and deer herd populations in my estimation have reduced dramatically. I feel there is not enough being done by Fish and Game to build them up.

Should have a season in December, cross bow or bow, (no spikes).

High incidence of wounded lost animals.

Should run in December; the colder conditions give you a chance.

Competition with domestic animals for food by elk on Forest Service land.

Season needs to be coordinated with rut, and there's not enough mature bulls.

I feel the commission should be more attentive to hunter visual count of elk.

380 should be opened for branch antlered bulls by archers only!

All terrain vehicle harassment of game; threat of gold and mining developments in prime habitat areas.

Wrong time of year.

Too many wounded and lost elk interferes with the breeding habits.

Too many out of state hunters with a poor attitude about wounding animals.

Because there are too many unexperienced hunters - a lot of wounded game.

Too many archery hunters so they should have two seasons. Don't agree with the drawing set up.

Too many hunters.

I oppose the orange paint that describes no hunting areas. Anyone can paint orange on a tree and make false boundaries.

Too many bulls taken during the rut.

Grouse and bear season starts at the same time and the shooting spooks animals.

Archery hunting could be used to help control herd in area 260 - stock farm and Sahalkaho area.

I would like to see more trophy management. I feel archery

pressure is too long and too great during the rut.

Don't believe elk should be hunted with a bow - too many hunted but not killed.

I would like to see a post season hunt also.

Would prefer post season hunting.

Need more elk.

I think elk need more undisturbed time between archery and rifle.

The season starts too early.

Bird hunting and too many hunters.

Too many people wound game. They should have to qualify.

In all seasons more roads should be shut off (in 319 Indian Saddle).

There are not enough trophy bulls in the area I hunt.
Need more elk.

Access is difficult unless you're willing to pay outfitters.

Not too many of them (elk).

Too many archers and too much rifle hunting during archery season.

I feel that you should have to apply for special permits in smaller districts with limited number for certain periods.

Too many all terrain vehicles used by so-called bow hunters.

Less and less places to go.

I hunted 380 and had opportunity to shoot at nice bulls but couldn't because it was spikes only.

If you are willing to work your luck will improve.

Not enough road closures; should have to choose rifle or bow.

Lack of mature bulls, high ratio of dry cows/wet cows, breeding season disruption.

I would like to see bull only areas (four point and five point).

It's not fair to the elk to have people who aren't capable of even shooting a bow hunting them for an extra season.

Overgrazing of range and wintering areas.

Too few mature bulls; we need to protect spikes.

Hunting clubs like the bow club in Malta get ranchers to allow them exclusive rights to early season hunts on BLM land they lease.

I believe that too many elk are wounded because archery season coincides with the rut.

Too long of season.

Not enough two and a half year old bulls and older; too much disturbance by vehicles and bikes on roads; need more walk in areas.

Getting permission from private landowners and road closures.

It was a dry year which is another factor moving big game and it moved them to private property.

Too many opportunists who aren't dedicated to do it right.

I feel there could be more late season elk archery only areas.

Too long a season; not enough breeding time for bulls; check dry cow numbers.

Not too many permits given out for archery hunters.

Too much emphasis on gun season, not enough on archery. More archery season.

Limiting archery hunting to specific areas.

Too many hunters.

Low success ratio.

Too many animals being wounded.

Too early in the year, also makes too long a season.

A late season.

Too many areas are being closed to drawings only.

Too many people.

Limited access.

Bird season and archery season are usually at the same time.

It needs an educational course. Hopefully it would lower the

number of bad shots taken by hunters resulting in wounded animals.

Increased hunting pressure by people who aren't serious bow hunters.

Again too much pressure via the outfitters and their clients.

Elk should be hunted only by tested and qualified bow hunters.

Should do bow or rifle, not both.

I would like to see the early season shortened and a late season added.

Bird gun hunters are out opening day and either poach elk or frighten them.

The spike bulls should be protected during bow season and general season.

Taken away the fair chase of bugling; road closures, canopy covers are being logged out; too many inexperienced archers.

Too many wounded, too many archers during rut.

Elk population is too small.

We are competing with the wolves, mountain lions and bears plus too many guide's killing of big bulls.

Average size of bull's antlers has decreased.

I believe the herds are too small; not enough elk.

I think all rifle and bow hunting should be branch antlered bulls or cows only.

There is always room for improvement - better management, more education, allow more permits for different species.

Elk are available but access to them is leased by ranchers, the people subsidized with low grazing fees, etc.

Poor access and relations with ranchers! Something must be done about pay hunting!

I'm not convinced the arrow will bring down a large elk.

It's not long enough.

Weather hasn't been cold enough to set the elk to bugle.

Limited elk populations, and wintering problems.

Elk populations seem too small; overcrowded and overhunted perhaps.

All the big bulls are killed during gun season, yet we get blamed for it.

Elk herds in Montana are really scattered and small.

I would like to see an "either/or" hunting regulation - i.e. rifle or bow.

Not enough critters to shoot at (elk that is).

I would like to see more late season areas opened in addition to Porcupine/Levinski.

It is probably due to two reasons: inexperience and area I hunted this year (Deer Lodge area).

There should be either/or hunting with gun or bow to get rid of people who can't shoot a bow.

We need a longer season and more good hunters and sportsmen and a few less bad ones.

I would like less travel restrictions, not to road hunt but to be able to access areas so I can hunt every day, like after work.

Too many roads open.

We can always use more elk!

Limited elk populations in areas 101 and 100 along with early moose rifle hunt.

We need more bulls for the amount of cows.

Too many uneducated, nonserious hunters ruining things for dedicated hunters.

Because up at CMR the number of permits was unlimited and all out of state hunters applied.

Because access to Forest Service and BLM land is closed off by private land with no access or access by paying a cash fee.

Where there is good hunting you can't get on the land because you can't get permission, and for the good spots the tags go to the out of staters. Also you have to pay for a hunting guide to find any decent elk.

Because I have never shot an elk with a bow.

Lots of cows, few good bulls. Rifle hunters that draw a cow tag

should not be allowed to shoot a bull.

Too many hunters in some places, i.e. 410, 631 and 632.

I haven't shot one yet.

Not enough big game or enough trophy game.

Not enough animals; bulls are unresponsive to bugle; cows and calves come to cow call easily.

Very difficult to find enough elk (saw two in 1987). Also shotgun season (grouse) is open at this time.

Because I didn't get one.

Pressure on branched bugling bulls plus pressure on branch antlered bulls in rifle season makes for problems in the future.

Prime habitat areas are too easily accessible to road hunters and vehicles.

Due to aircraft flying too low in the district I hunt and harassing the animals and running them off, I could not get the shot I should have had.

It seems like the numbers are decreasing.

Need more road closures, which need better enforcement.

People should not shoot unless they are willing to track a wounded animal to the extent.

Too many guides and out of staters.

Area 324 is closed to archery.

I believe in better hunter awareness of limitations of their bows and themselves.

I don't think we have enough elk to hunt with gun and bow, and then have enough to get the population strong again.

Lack of reasonable access to certain public land.

Need more road closures.

There is too much private land and no access to productive hunting.

Not enough elk.

Need a late season hunt for archery like in December.

In three of four areas I hunt, the bull/cow ratio is critically

low with poor population of young bulls.

I feel there is no need for permit application for archery season, for elk.

I have not hunted long enough to have an educated opinion.

Not as much elk as I though there was.

Should not have to put in for one district and drawing.

Not enough elk.

Due to the need of a permit to hunt north of Missouri River Breaks, way too much pressure on south part.

It lasts too long.

Elk populations could be increased and it would not hurt the ecological system if more winter range was purchased.

Not enough big bulls.

I feel the rut shouldn't be bothered by hunters.

Not enough animals.

Need more wardens; too many out of staters and people who do not know how to hunt properly.

Inconsistent regulations from year to year and area to area.
Should outlaw the use of artificial calls - bugle, cow calls.

Trophy bulls are a lot fewer than they werre ten to fifteen years ago.

Too much land is leased to guides; access to forest is limited.

The length of the season is great but the amount of trophy bulls is not good.

Didn't see any in three days. I was in the Bear Paw mountains.

Access is being tied up for money.

Access is a problem.

I would like to be able to hunt without grouse hunters scaring game away with shotguns.

Not enough elk.

Not enough elk.

No, the weather is too warm. I hear of people whose meat spoils before it can be packed out.

Not nearly enough elk available to majority of elk archery hunters without packing into backcountry.

Too much private land closed off to the public.

Not enough elk.

Because the elk seem to be in certain places with hunters congested.

I live in the 240 area and have yet to receive a cow elk tag (rifle). While I watch outsiders get theirs.

Can't find any.

1) The season is much too long; 2) bow hunters should not be allowed to hunt elk.

I haven't gotten a thing with my bow.

Too many out of state people trying to move in.

Too few big bulls.

Too many roads and road hunters in the area I love to hunt.

Need more elk.

Area 324 should be opened for archery because it was not the problem for poor calf crop.

I'm disabled; access is not very good for me.

Too many people try to bugle in elk.

I would like to keep motorcycles out of elk living areas.

The number of trophy animals should be increased.

Too many people in hunting area.

The native herds in area 313 and 314 are small and on private land.

There seems to be not enough bulls where I hunt.

Depleted herds caused by overhunting during rifle season.

Not enough elk.

We need more public access.

Special branch antlered regulations (as in 380), should not apply to archery season.

The Fish and Game access roads are being closed more and more every year through private ground.

More roads should be closed off to allow for more remote areas.

Too early.

Too many people who can't accurately shoot are hunting.

Too many hunters.

I would like to see less spike bulls taken in rifle season. They should go branch antlered bull only in rifle season.

I don't feel it is necessary to prohibit taking of spikes.

Too many elk poached with rifle during archery and too many unskilled archers.

I would like to see vehicle access to retrieve game in areas where roads are closed. Retrieve only!

Not enough elk.

It seems as though there are enough elk but not enough big bulls, only raghorns and spikes.

The amount of trophy bulls and elk in general is declining.

I do wish that there were more elk on more habitat with better access.

4x4 all terrain vehicles drive all around where they should not be and scare game.

Need new archery classes for hunters under eighteen.

Noise from upland bird hunters; poor forest management.

It's too easy to bugle in bulls (smaller ones) within compound with sights range.

I feel it's getting more and more congested with people who aren't serious hunters. And the logging takes its toll.

Several states let you shoot deer with a bow or black powder and also with a rifle - one deer for each!.

It's too expensive. I do not hunt elk with a bow or gun.

Road closures don't make sense at all.

Elk are not accessible in most areas without the use of a horse.

More emphasis should be placed on managing forests for optimum wildlife experiences.

Not experienced enough.

We should not be killing big bull elk during the rut and let them do the breeding.

There is not enough land (public) to accomodate all the hunters.

There are too many archery hunters that only hunt to extend their season. They are sloppy and careless.

Because of limited public access to areas that are guided or outfitted.

Successful trips seems to be low in number.

Most archery elk hunters are crossovers from the rifle hunters and are disrupting the archery hunters.

The season should be extended after general season.

I would like to see some areas to be archery hunting only.

It's very tough to distinguish between spikes and forkhorns where distinction must be made.

I think bird season should be later, so not to interfere with bow and arrow season.

In my area we have local outfitters who feed the elk population and then harvest them for their own profit.

Need better access to national forests.

Late area is poor location.

There's too many archers that aren't serious and are waiting for the rifle season.

I would like to see late hunts, otherwise I am satisfied.

The weather was too warm and the elk were sparse.

Too few elk; no snow.

Needs to be extended after gun season.

Accuracy requirements should be instituted.

Access to public lands is very restricted by ranchers/outfitters.
Restricted public land access.

We need better control of trophy management and poaching.

There is getting to be too many unqualified hunters chasing elk.

They are taking too many bulls. It should be limited.

I'd like to see more trophy animals in the population.

Need to open state land behind private property.

Too much pressure is decreasing quality of hunt.

More areas should be opened to either sex without special permits.

We could use more access to private land - without having to pay for it.

There are too many hunters.

Land access - ranch reward for harvest on property.

There is not enough elk on public lands.

Every time I'm after elk, some chicken hunter shoots and spooks them.

Open it one week earlier.

There is not enough access. Permit system is 600 areas is causing overcrowding in 418.

In the same area you could have twenty gun hunters, but two bow hunters can screw each other up.

There are too many roads and trails that are "road hunted".

The big game population is low in my preferred hunting district. Also I mentioned earlier that the season needs to be longer.

My main complaint is the same as during the general season. Make some areas no vehicle travel whatsoever.

Bird hunting in high elevations; outfitters baiting and herding game animals; money seems to be a big factor in success.

Although I've not archery elk hunted extensively in Montana, from what I've heard it is very crowded.

When application for an area is the number one choice, they

should receive that area.

There are too many hunters on CMR and adjoining BLM land. Quality of hunt is lowered, the elk are stressed. You need to increase herd. The weak link is landowner tolerance, the remedy to this problem is to increase the herd.

Season should be four weeks longer or more.

The season is not long enough.

I think after a person has killed an elk he should not be able to again for three years.

I think restrictions on bull elk pertaining to number of points is ridiculous - archery success is low.

Too few trophy quality bulls.

Season is too long.

Elk hunting should be limited to certain areas where elk are plentiful.

There are too many cattle. They run the game off.

I think they should do away with calls. It's hurting the elk populations real bad.

We need more motor vehicle access to retrieve game. We need more elk.

There are too many archery hunters and too many elk calling devices.

There was a mega number of people in my hunting areas.

I would like to put in for the elk permit, then archery hunt if I didn't get it.

Need more trophy bulls.

Can't get access to most good hunting areas (private).

Access to public land is blocked or restricted.

Because the local hunters to the drawing district I get hunt and kill more elk than allowed. They are messing up the hunting for nonlocals.

There are too many incompetent so called archery hunters running around.

I feel that some years the weather is too warm to be hunting big

animals that early.

There should also be a post season hunt after rifle season.

I hear of too many elk being wounded.

Should have more animals.

Take the change with the rifle hunting.

Because I've yet to get an elk with a bow.

There are too many outfitters and out of state hunters.

Because we don't have enough trophy bulls that are accessible to the average guy without hiring a packer or paying to get on private land.

The season is too long.

It's too hard to get access to good hunting because of private lands.

Should not have to be a special permit.

There are too many logging roads being built.

I would like to see the herds managed for trophy elk. Require permits for bulls and control the population via antlerless hunting.

Because of logging.

The season is longer than necessary.

Disruption of archery season with shotguns, motorcycles, and four wheelers.

There are too many cattle still on forest lands when bow season has opened up, and bird hunters are out at the same time.

It has changed too much; quality leaving it, habitat disappearing, elk call shy.

There are too many weekend warriors who are not competent archers.

Too early in season causes it to be too hot and no snow.

We shouldn't be restricted to one district in our area.

I feel archery hunters should be able to hunt statewide.

More access is needed across private lands.

Choosing areas like 700 for archery takes away your first rifle choice.

Weather in early season is a big factor.

There is very little access to public lands that the good native herds use to rut.

Public ground is not as good trophy hunting as in the past.

Various weather conditions from season to season, and the length of season is too short.

Too much bugling.

Various weather conditions from year to year doesn't help bugling in most areas, and the season is too short.

Not enough game, access to hunting is limited.

Nonresident and unknowledgeable hunters are pursuing elk.

Interferes with crucial elk mating.

There are too many inexperienced or inadequate hunters and too many out of state hunters. They should be forced to prove their hunting skill, as should we all.

I don't like picking one district.

Ranchers don't like it.

BLM. state, and U.S. Forest Service close vehicle access to good hunting. (Hunter has no way of retrieving game when he is poor.)

Elk seem to be scarce for the amount of area available.

Because I have never hunted elk.

All areas should be open to archers and there shouldn't be a point system on bulls or bucks.

Season should be shortened to two weeks.

There are not enough elk in region 103.

More just archery elk areas are needed.
Airplanes buzzing around!

Stress on bulls, no good tracking at that time of year.

Need a system to weed out the people who archery hunt only to extend their season.

Reduce pressure; protect spikes to increase larger bull population; make hunters choose between bow or rifle.

It is too difficult for the working resident to compete with nonresidents.

Cattle leases on public lands ruin winter range; limited access.

The season is too long and game have no resting period from September 1 to November 30.

You people ruined CMR game res. around Glasgow and area south of Malta.

No, warm weather causes meat spoilage - bad.

Lack of timber; too many roads and road hunters.

Archery hunters should choose between bow or rifle.

Archery hunting is very difficult and takes more time to find elk and kill them.

The season is too long.

Too much area is closed to hunting.

Because it's bird season at the same time.

You've got bird hunters out there with shotguns scaring the big game.

There is too much interference with other hunters that don't know what they're doing.

More trophy quality bulls are needed in the hills (five point or better).

Too many people that archery hunt don't have a clue and just go out and ruin it for the serious archery hunters.

Because there are too many out of state hunters.

There are many small bulls and few big bulls.

Need more elk in northwest Montana with point restriction on bull elk.

It's hard to get access on private land.

Younger bulls should be protected during bow and rifle; decreased domestic grazing; should be passage of laws to eliminate private landowners from blocking passage to federal and state lands.

Due to small kill rates, we should have no antler limitations such as the no spike areas.

Not enough large bulls; poor bull/cow ratio; poor cow/calf ratio.

Seismograph activity in Beartooths during archery season.

There are too many archers in certain hunting districts.

Not enough elk.

Too hard to gain access to "good" hunting.

Excessive cattle grazing; motorcycles going ahead and scaring everything; new roads above Potosie Hot Springs.

Force people to choose between a gun or a bow for elk and deer separately, and pick an area for archery elk.

Too many hunters, not serious bow hunters, road hunters.

Bear and grouse hunters disturb elk during rut with shooting.

Low population of bulls.

There are too many archers in elk hunting districts; elk are becoming bugle shy; there are no large area late hunts; need widespread either sex hunts, why branch antlered bulls only?

The CMR was a circus. My friend and I left the same day because of the number of hunters.

Too many outfitters are getting involved which is increasing the pressure on elk herds.

There is not enough access to areas where elk live - even less than deer - especially areas closed to vehicles that have good roads.

ATV's are a major problem. Solution is ATV's from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with no bows and no guns (during rifle season only).

Not long enough season.

I feel it should be a longer season.

Access to land.

Not enough elk.

Because I can never find them (elk).

Because I didn't get to see any except the one my dad shot.

Limited access to the better hunting on private land is hard to get on because of leasing to outfitters.

There is not enough time, and not enough "legal" bulls.

Not being allowed to hunt any size bull in certain areas.

Too many are wounded because of poor shots taken and too small of bow.

There is too much pressure on big bulls.

Area 324 and the surrounding areas should be open to bow hunting.

Too many all terrain vehicles.

There is too little access to public lands. Many elk habitat areas are blocked from reasonable foot access by posted private lands.

Low number of bulls per cows; trophy bull quality is down.

Low elk populations.

Too many out of staters are here hunting out elk and screwing us out of them.

I would like to see a decrease in people who don't take the time to hit what they aim at.

More access to state and federal lands (tax payers land).

Seemingly low elk numbers; limited access to elk causing a funneling of hunters.

Montana FWP does an excellent job and I know you can't please everyone but I'd like to see more archery only areas or post seasons, or areas managed for trophies. Maybe drawing permit only quality hunts is some areas.

Have not spent much time hunting elk yet.

Low populations in total, few mature bulls.

Because the season is too short.

Montana herds are increasing because of twins. Good artificial calls are disturbing the rut.

Loss of access to public lands by private ownership of ranchers and corporations.

I saw too many out of state hunters and off road vehicles.

The bull/cow ratio in the Crazy Mountains is bad; make it branch

antlered only.

I think the regulations should be changed on the CMR. We should be able to hunt any district that we want to.

I hunt the Breaks mostly and it's getting overrun - 410 area permit only.

I believe the state could support more elk.

There's not enough elk in my area.

Because the numbers of elk are low.

Elk are too hard to get in warm weather.

I wish there were more areas closer to hunt elk.

Do not like the idea of using first choice on application to archery hunt on CMR.

It's so hard to find a good area close in that somebody hasn't bought the rights to.

There are not enough trophy animals within reach of the average hunter without hiring a packer.

Guides have tried to make me leave areas I have walked in to.

I think all areas should be open for bow hunting in the state.

Not enough bulls.

Numbers of hunters is increasing.

Early season.

Because you have to work hard to get close to elk.

Need better access to public land.

People buying up bordering land and stopping access to public ground (state).

Where I hunt there are people who buy a bow just to hunt elk, not to bow hunt.

My biggest problem with elk archery hunting would be unethical, unsportsmanlike hunters.

There aren't really enough elk.

Area 324 is my favorite area and it is closed and yet they let a lot of cow permits during the rifle season.

Need more information on where I can go elk hunting in Montana with a bow.

I feel elk are not properly being managed on CMR. I believe too many elk are being taken, not only by archery but by special permit drawings. Bulls are not achieving maturity.

Too many of Montana's elk are controlled by private landowners.

Where I hunt I haven't seen an elk.

A guide in the area has a camp at the end of the road; too much pressure.

Because the season is too late and bugling doesn't work as well.

Lack of mature bulls, aircraft spotting, rifle poachers.

Low hunter success rate.

We need a longer season.

If one draws a special permit for elk in a given district, he should not be allowed to hunt in other districts.

There has become so much pressure!

I disagree with the archery permit system in the Missouri Breaks. There is no need for it!

There are too many crossover hunters, rifle and archers; should be one choice.

Certain game ranges should be open on a lottery basis.

I would like to see a few more mature bulls in my area 448. I have seen lots of spikes.

I have wanted to hunt elk and will someday but I am displeased with the number of bow hunters who brag of "sticking" a big bull but never retrieve them.

There weren't enough elk down.

The bull population has decreased and other hunters are moving in rapidly.

There are too many elk hunters.

There needs to be more free access for archery hunters.

Permits are not needed in the Missouri Breaks.

Should have an archery season for elk hunting in the Bear Paw Mountains.

Permit areas such as 621 force excessive hunting on open areas.

Forest Service has locked gates when they're supposed to be open.

Puts too much pressure on the mature bull during the rut!

Access to public hunting is getting too difficult.

I don't like the closure of the area north of the Missouri. It's closed except to permits.

There's too little access to public lands.

We need to restrict hunters to branch antlered bulls only.

I'd have to have a permit to hunt where I'd like to.

Not enough elk.

I hunt the Breaks and don't like the restricted area choices on the north side.

I think the CMR Game Reserve should be for bow hunting only.

The Sweetgrass Hills are so posted up you can't find a place to hunt.

There are too many hunters for the number of elk in the areas I hunt.

Late hunts; more elk in districts.

The Breaks should be managed as on unit, i.e. all permits or none.

There are too many people for amount of bull elk.

There is too much shooting with rifles going on - bird hunters or poachers?

There should be more time between general and archery seasons.

Season could be longer.

In the district 415 "Skyline Roads", the roads are closed off where you can't go back further to hunt.

There is too much public land blocked off by private landowners.

More trophy bulls are needed.

The season opens at just the wrong time for me. I live in the

east (Montana) and can't get off work to go hunt.

Herd populations are down and poor private land and public overgrazing are taking elk out of normal areas.

I would like to see more animals.

Archery hunting disturbs the elk causing them to leave certain areas.

Not enough big bulls.

Too vast of an area to cover in such a short time.

I believe the elk population could be increased.

Too many horse access only are too hard to walk in to.

Need more access to public grounds - too many barriers.

I would like to see more elk around.

I would like to see a longer season and more trophy animals.

There is not enough elk!.

There is too much access being closed off.

I haven't gone yet, but I hope to.

There are too many hunters allowed in the CMR.

No quality animals are left.

Most large populations are tied up by private land or poor access to Forest Service land.

Need more trophy class animals in all areas.

It's hard to get access to prime elk country.

There are too many people hunting. You should charge more for the out of state hunters. They can afford it at any price.

Bow and rifle don't mix.

More elk and less cattle grazing in hunting area.

Good areas are leased by outfitters and public land is locked out by private landowners.

They are taking too many mature bulls from one area and not leaving much for breeding.

Not enough big bulls.

I am not familiar enough with location of elk before winter snow and cold.

The cow season should be shortened or closed for a few year to increase the herd.

More elk population needed.

Opening day should be two weeks earlier.
I feel the game population is very low in most areas.

Not enough big bulls.

Could be longer season.

Only branch antlered bulls in the areas I hunt.

Should limit archery to antlerless only.

It coincides with grouse season.

Low population, hunters, poor weather.

Season could be shortened one week. I'd like to see less ATV's in the backcountry.

I am very concerned about private landowners controlling public lands by access rights.

There are no archery only areas for elk except for paying a guide.

There are far too many incompetent buglers.

Getting to public lands.

Not enough elk.

Need to close more roads; too accessible.

Area 520 had oil exploration helicopters flying most of the season.

There are too many elk hunters.

The elk were where I wasn't.

No elk.

Because you can't bugle for them.

Need more areas for archery only and build up elk population.

Need more access through private land and on private land.

Not many elk.

Need access to more areas.

There aren't many elk left to hunt.

The elk population is limited in local area.

Hunting pressures vs. land use (land/access).

Not long enough season.

There is not enough elk in northwest Montana.

Lack of elk.

Access!

PART 3 - NO

Too many hunters and fewer mature animals.

Elk are lower at this time of year and are on private or posted property-very limited access

I feel logging is ruining habitat

Because of the amount of people with no experience

THE BULL TO COW RATIO IS TOO SMALL

I was misled by the information for the drawings.

Should not be able to hunt during bugleing season.

Would like a late season

need more game

Because I have been archery hunting for 5 years and have only seen one Elk.

increased population needed

TOO MANY BULLS ARE SHOT AT-KILLED AND NOT TRACKED DOWN BY HUNTERS!

The population of Elk in the area need help, as far as archery seson I am pleased.

Most Bulls will not bugle in Archery season (Ruts about over)

never shot one

more cow tags

Not enough large bulls

No B.A. Bulls

Not enough success

LACK OF ELK

Upsets animals for gun season

Montanans are very secretive as to where they hunt-don't share this info with others.

Not enough Elk in area

TOO FEW ELK

GOOD AREAS AREN'T ACCESSABLE

Not enough Elk in Northwest Mt.- Too much timber

they are to big and their is to many wounded & lost.

logging Roads are Being cut into areas and allowing more access

Should go to branch antlers only to increase Bull to Cow ratio in district 100

I would like to see people make a choice to hunt elk with Bow or Rifle only

To many hurt and lost

Certain areas should be more restrictive to vehicle use

In many areas there is a small population of elk, and Lg. Bulls.

Hard to Find

To many non qualified hunters

Not enough Elk

Too many inexp hunters

Logging has destroyed all the hunting

I prefere late season hunts with tracking snow, rather than Bugle season

grouse season starts too soon- public access to our land is poor

Want to hunt Branch Bulls in 380

It sucks.

Because I am handicap I have hard time getting around to get the Big game.

TO MANY BLOCKED ROADS-

Because Elk hunting should be restricted to rifle only.

I can't find one

ALL DISTRICTS SHOULD BE OPEN TO EITHER SEX HUNTING.

Some people do not follow up on weather they have hit there game

I would like to hunt either sex during rifle season

Because to elk hunt you just about have to have snow for tracking.

Not enough animal's

Because down in Gardiner there are elk atarving and there are hardly any elk where I live.

Branch antlered only regs should be stopped for archery hunters.

Can't seem to get one in close enough.

To many animals are wounded and die with out being recovered.

Not enough elk are baged every year, most of the ones
killed are poached

to many hunters

not enough to be found, but this was a bad & difficult year.

Poor response to calling due to hunting pressure

Not enough animals and no access to private land

to many all-terrain vehicles in area

There are fewer large bulls.

NEED MORE BULLS IN THiS AREA.

Need more quality bulls

I think most areas are capable of suporting more elk

To warm when season is open shound open later

Miss out on the hottest part of Bugling season

need more trophy areas, legal bulls should be three to five point
for example

would like to see fewer archery hunters

To many restricted areas

LIMITED ACCESS WHILE ROADS ARE GOOD= LOGGING!!!

Not long enough season

never see many elk

not enough elk

I think it could be improved by having a short early season
followed by a week or two after the general season

There is getting to be too many hunters, not enough to trophy
bulls

Season should open later even if it meant moving the general
season later

I feel that too many people are not serious about it and are
losing game

Should have it after mating time

THE SEASON FALLS DURING AN EXTREMELY BUSY TIME IN CONSTRUCTION.
ITS HARD TO FIND DAYS TO HUNT.

THE SEASON IS TO EARLY AND THE WEATHER IS TOO WARM

TO MUCH HUNTING PRESSURE

Need more trophy bulls.

would prefer more gated roads. Elk need less vehicle pressure.

Moose hunting-Rifle season

Elk don't come whe called or run for Glacier Park when talked to!
need hunts with snow or drawings in areas like Agusta after the
season to catch the migrating herd when 400 & animals aren't
taken.

Because of the unpracticed bow hunters.

pass out more permits for Fort Peck or Elk

Not enough elk in area 447. In 4 years of hunting with a bow
have not seen an elk. During archery aeason.

Too many hunters-much stated federal land over grazed by farmers
& ranchers.

HUNTING PRESSURE

To many hunters bugling the Bulls making them smart they wont
talk

there doesn't seem to be enough elk around

Archery hunting used to be less crowded

The Bulls in Western Montana have to much pressure on them. ie.
they no longer bugle

Not enough animals

Season to early Elk are up high & incessable

Think archers are taking too many mature bulls

Bow hunters receive preference over rifle hunters in most
regulations

Fish & Game tries to raise too much money from out of state

hunters by making licenses to available, hence too many hunters
Where are the elk

I would like to see number of branch antler bull elk increased

Up the out of state fees so I don't see so many out of state
vehicles & hunters

THE "REMOTE" AREA IN WHICH WE USE TO HUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY
SO CALLED OUTFITTER & HIS SO CALLED GUIDES & OUT OF STATERS.

1 WEEK 3 WEEK POOR IF YOU CAN PLACE YOUR SHOT.

ACCESS IS GETTING BAD, OUT OF STATE HUNTERS WHO HAVE MONEY HAVE
BETTER HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

MORE SHOULD BE DONE TO PRODUCE MORE TROPHY SIZE ANIMALS

Should be able to shoot spike bulls - possibly by drawing of
special permits!

Are 100 & 103 has a pour bull to cow ratio. see very few bulls.

Not enough big bull's (head bull type) to trophy for

I think all motorized vehicles should be limited to established
roads.

To many irrspensible hunters. Shoot and don't follow on kills.

locked gates limit oppertunity for hunters who don't own horses

To many elk shot untaged. Hunters kill 2nd elk in rifle season
then tags.

Elk in area 284 seem to find their way to private land -
landowner doesn't allow hunting except for friends or for foe.

WOULD LIKE TO SEE LATE SEASON

Elk in our area stay on private land

Cut season in half for few years to allow game to increase.

I believe we need to weed the non serious hunters out.

Lack of access around private land

I THINK MORE AREAS SHOULD BE CHANGED TO BRANCH ANTLERED

I believe areas should have cow permits for bows & spikes should
be omitted

because you have people shooting game with guns. Noone ever checks people.

Too many inexperienced Buglers spooking Bulls, becoming call shy
Elk herds and population in general are to small

Because there are too many people using aircraft and not staying
on main roads

Not enough Elk

I don't see the number of bulls I would like to.

Some areas are closed that would be good - other areas so hard to
hunt

depletion of herd

Not enough elk where we live.

As in rifle hunting we are selling out to out of staters

THERE ARE GETTING TO BE TO MANY GREENHORN BOWHUNTERS

Not enough bulls left because of general season hunters kill to
many. shorten rifle season.

SPIKES AND COWS ARE ALLOWED TO BE SHOT

could be better management on the elk populations

Should be used for get animals doing crop or fence damage

Too much gun pressure, the N.W corner has very few Elk too many
roads

NOT ENOUGH ELK IN HUNTING AREA

MORE LOGGING ROAD SHOULD BE CLOSED & DONE SO EARLIER

LACK OF ACCESS, LACK OF ELK

Need more game

there are too many hunters.

Would like to have an archery only area near home (Missoula)
during cooler weather

I've been buying elk tags for a lot of years, approx. (10-12)
have never got one yet (arch,gun)

need more elk

LACK OF ACCESS THE ELK. THIS STATE IS SLOWLY BECOMING AN
"EASTERN STYLE" OF HUNTING STATE i.e. DAY HUNTING IS BECOMING
COMMON PLACE!

NOT ENOUGH ELK!!

Satisfied - except # of trophy heads - which should be increased.

Elk are being Bugled by every Tom Dick & Harry. Improper methods
make things hard.

I think there should be more areas for 5 pt or better and for
general rifle season as well

Lack of trophy sized or mature bull elk.

Not eneough big game.

Not enough elk

I think compound bows should be outlawed due to wounded game

TO MANY OUT-OF-STATE PEOPLE, OUTFITTERS, AND PILGRIMS

I just wish there were more elk.

SEASON COULD BE 2 WEEKS LONGER

Poor Bull cow ratio

NOT ENOUGH ELK in districts I hunt in. Areas can support lots
more elk (feed wise)

To many idiots out there who don't know how to really bow hunt.

Need to manage for larger Bulls & need to impress on people the
need to take only shots that have a very high chance to kill
quickly and are within their ability

Have many chances at small Bulls, but none on large Bulls

Areas - closed to hunting

Need to see more trophy animals

I don't feel archers should be restricted not harvest spike
bulls, when the animal already has the advantage

Would like to see more mature bulls

open it early?

To many outfitters

There should be more access roads to these places and some should be eliminated.

TOO MUCH HUNTER COMPETITION

I would like to see some late season hunts

Lack of game especially trophy animals

No because land owners move the elk & then want money to hunt on their land.

Too many closed areas and "no trespassing" signs to prevent access.

AREA 216 WHERE I HUNT HAS A EARLY SEASON PERMIT ONLY RIFLE HUNT WHICH USUALLY KILLS OR SEPARATES THE HERD BULLS.

elk area are being grazed by domestic sheep

ELK POPULATIONS ARE SPARSE DUE TO LOGGING PRIME HABITAT.

Season should be moved to after general season so wounded animals can be tracked.

WE NEED A SPLIT SEASON

There should be an extended season Dec -31, and elk w/bow, 1 w/rifle

I don't think hunting should be allowed durring the rut - late seasons - Dec. & Jan.

I feel the intrusion into the breeding season and has changed elk breeding patterns.

I would like 1 extra week of hunting before rifle season.

The increased pressure is having it's effect on the elk during the rut.

basically yes, but I would like to see some late hunts

I would like to see hunters limited to either the archery or rifle season but not both.

Everyone can hunt whether experienced & careful or not; Must curtail irresponsible hunters

there are not enough older aged in the population and too many part time bowhunters

Poor time of year

Because of the controlled hunting areas.

There is getting to be too many people who don't practice or belong

If a road is marked closed nobody should be in the closed area with a vehicle

because of limitations in my area (Missori River Breaks)

Because there are too many elk wounded

Too many slob! hunters

the restrictions and outfitters

too much land is tied up by outfitters

Every area w/elk is open - either sex, opening day coincides w/opening of grouse.

Increase big game populations and access to elk.

Too many guides taking clients out.

Short season

Bird hunters create too much noise.

Not enough animals & too much wounding of game by nonexperienced people

the season should be longer

Not enough land owner will allow citizens the opportunity to harvest the elk from their land

Not enough adult males too short of season

INCREASED HUNTING PRESSURE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS

Legalize crossbows - would minimize the number of wounded game getting away

there aren't as many big bulls

SEASON SHOULD BE SHORTENED TO ALLOW ELK TO BREED

Too many breed bulls wounded

The season ends right in the middle of the best hunting

Area's where Elk traditionally rut should be off limits to logging activity during the breeding season

Getting to be too much pressure on Bulls during rut (Harrassment type more than kill)

to many restrictions on land.

SPIKE BULLS SHOULD BE LEGAL TO ARCHERS, TOO MUCH PUBLIC LAND IS LOCKED IN BY PRIVATE RANCHES

Too much hunting pressure, too much commercializtion.

Season is too long. 5+ weeks of archery & 6+ weeks of rifle is raising hell with the bulls

I'd rather see archery season follow general season.

as stated before season should be after general big game season

Archery too close to rifle

TOO MANY ANIMALS WOUNDED BY IDIOTS.

THERE SHOULD BE NO ANTERLESS KILLING, & MAYBE 4 PT. OR BETTER

Private access closed. Public access closed. limited access.

Lower Elk population due to heavy access via forest service road building.

The spikes and large Bulls are at a minimal

too many hunters

More habitat less roads no "gun" hunting in or during archery season!

I feel it would help if people are restricted to a choice of bow or rifle.

People are allowed to hunt with a bow that hasn't been trained & wound too many animals

It is over publisized and the quality is bad.

We need more walk-in or pack-in only areas.

IN THE LAST 5 YRS ELK POPULATION HAS DECREASED SUBSTANALLY.

Shouldn't be bothered during rut. Should be hunted after reg. season.

MORE AND MORE ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS IS BEING LOST.

Not enough elk not enough feed for elk

The season should open 1 week earlier & close 1 week earlier

there are to many hunters that are not qualified to be hunting with a bow, they need to be discouraged to hunt, or spend more time practising

Elk populations have decreased over the years.

We must get rid of irresponsible "shooters" not hunters. It would be done by forcing a choice between rifle & bow

CAN'T KILL A BULL ELK WITH EVEN 82# COMPOUND BOW! HAD 3 ELK SHOTS IN 10YRS., GOT 1 COW.

UNEXPERIANCED HUNTERS

Too many inexperienced people out shooting at elk without preseason practice.

should be open late - December for snow to track & damage hunts

pvt. landowners have a serious barrier for bowhunting in my opinion, primarily due to the slob bowhunter

TOO MANY NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS

It is O.K. But with the increase of New hunters each yr. the season should be shorter.

The number of non-serious hunters has increased rapidly and bugling has decreased

need more habitat and access, and ethical competent archers

Too few Bulls

Not enough trophy animals. Abuse of land by vehicles . Out fitter opposition.

I BELIEVE THAT ONLY THE MOST SERIOUS BOWHUNTER, WITH PROPER EQUIPMENT SHOULD ATTEMPT ELK BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE.

Becoming to crowded

Not enough trophy bulls to many spikes being harvested

To many national forest logging roads. Pathetic

Saturization by out of state hunters and not enough Elk. Lack of game protectors - Poaching.

No fair to elk & game hunters too many wounded

We need bigger and better and more bulls (or maybe branch ant. only

please see enclosed sheet.

the elk herd in our area seems to be in severe trouble

too many rifle hunters and bow hunters reduce hunters = better game herds.

Hunt in hot weather so have to hunt close enough to roads to get game out quickly

Not enough game - too much competition too many closed roads

Either legalize crossbows or combine archery & rifle season together to many wounded animals

Too many animals getting killed off

Not enough Elk. It concentrate too much hunting pressure in a small area.

Elk hunting area open all year with elk in only a small part of it.

WOULD LIKE TO SEE A LATE SEASON HUNT AFTER GENERAL RIFLE SEASON

Each year I seem to see more & more hunters, when trying to bugle bulls this causes great disruption

Too much pressure on Mature bull Elk. Too many barren cows - diminishing Elk population

There are too much easy access by 4 by 4 & atv behind gated roads

WE NEED A LATE SEASON ELK HUNT FOR ARCHERY

The season is too long, in hot weather, & during the elk rut which splits the herds & keeps the cows from getting bred

LEGALIZE CROSS-BOWS FOR WIVES!

TO MUCH ACCESS TO THE ELK, NOT ENOUGH ROAD CLOSURE.

HUNTER CONGESTION / HABITAT ISOLATION

add a post hunting season Dec 1 to 31, Bulls only

Because they have Grouse and Bear at the same time

I would like to see herds around Kalispell & Flathead valley

increased - having more elk available

